

Star Donald
Sutherland
dies at 88

SEE PAGES 30&31



BEST FOR ROYAL ASCOT

FREE £2

SHOP BET WITH

William **HILL**

VALID ON ALL RACING... PAGE 26

PLUS 2 GREAT PULLOUTS



...& BEST FOR EUROS

England... it's
a hard watch



AGONY Gareth Southgate, Prince William & fan
SEE PAGES 2,3,4&5 AND SPORT

TORY BETTING SCANDAL

WHAT ARE THE ODDS ON THAT?

Three probed... as surge
in election bets revealed



INVESTIGATION Williams, Saunders & Lee

BY SOPHIE HUSKISSON

THE Tory election
betting scandal last
night deepened, with
three now being probed.

Candidate Laura
Saunders faces

claims with husband Tony
Lee, who quit as campaign
chief, and Craig Williams.

And a flurry of bets were
placed on a July 4 poll date,
days before it was revealed.

FULL STORY: PAGES 6&7



EURO 2024



BLACKPOOL
Supporter is down in the dumps

CROYDON
Cheers of joy followed by bitter disappointment, right

Say yes
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Difference
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DENMARK 1 ENGLAND 1

It's the hope...

BY JEREMY ARMSTRONG
JUST when you thought being an England fan couldn't get any more excruciating...

It started so promisingly when skipper Harry Kane put his side 1-0 up, sparking joyous scenes in the stands at Frankfurt and the pubs and fan zones back home. But any thoughts of an easy ride through to the knockout stages lasted a mere 16 minutes. Heads in hands, arms thrown in the air in disbelief, England had blown the chance to win the group with a game to spare. A TV audience of up to 20 million saw Gareth Southgate's men meekly play out the 1-1 draw, with at least two million of them doing so down their local. The fan zone was packed in Times Square, Newcastle. Retired lecturer Paul Bailey, 59, of Whitburn, said: "We've so



NEWKY DOWN Fans despair in Newcastle

...then a demoralising draw

much talent up front and I think we need to use it more. "We score and sit back instead of finishing off the opposition." His brother Christopher, 49, also a lecturer, added: "I know it is all about getting into the knockout stages but I wish we could be just a bit more adventurous, less ponderous." Fan zones were also mobbed in Nottingham, Birmingham,

Blackpool, Leeds, London and Brighton. Spurs fan Kath Pond, 58, of Farnham, Surrey, was among the thousands watching in the capital. She said: "I thought King Harry had done it for us again. It was a great start but we need to get it forward to Kane more." In Bristol, where 800 fans piled into a fan zone, Darren Cook, 44, warned: "We will be out in the quarter-finals. I really liked Southgate as a manager up to now but this is his last opportunity to win something. "We've had the best set of players we have had for years." The British Beer and Pub Association predicted an extra 5 million pints, worth £24m, were consumed despite the performance. Or perhaps because of it. jeremy.armstrong@mirror.co.uk [X@jeremyatmirror](https://twitter.com/jeremyatmirror)



BIRMINGHAM
A Brummie fan looks on in disbelief

Nectar Price
£3.15
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Taste the Difference
Garlic chicken & smoked bacon caesar pizza 465g



Nectar Price
£3.15
Without Nectar
£4.75

Taste the Difference
Salami, prosciutto ham & chorizo pizza 455g



Sainsbury's
Good food for all of us



EURO 2024

Heirdryer



WALK-WARD Kyle's wife Annie, left, & Lauryn

Wags fly in to back their boys



BOW PEEP Dani



TOP PICK Megan



CON'S GAL Aine



OLLIE-DAY Ellie

AS England's players struggled to a draw in Frankfurt, their wives, girlfriends and families cheered from the stands. They included defender Kyle Walker's wife and mum-of-four Annie Kilner, 30, who had flown in on a private jet from Manchester earlier in the day. Model Lauryn Goodman, 33, who had a fling with the Man City star, was also at the stadium with her and Walker's four-year-old son Kairo, although the two women did not meet.

Winger Jarrod Bowen's girlfriend Dani Dyer, 27, proudly wore an England shirt with his number 20. And Megan Davison, 28, wife of Jordan Pickford, wore a yellow goalkeeper's jersey with his name on the back.

Ellie Alderson, 28, was cheering on striker boyfriend Ollie Watkins, and midfielder Conor Gallagher was watched by model Aine Kennedy, 26.

Terror suspect held

A TERROR suspect has been arrested near the city where Scotland play their win-or-bust final group game against Hungary.

The alleged "sleeper agent" was picked up by police in Esslingen, nine miles from Stuttgart. Originally from Iraq, it is understood the suspect arrived in Germany in October 2022 and prosecutors claim he was on standby to carry out attacks for Islamic State.

JUMPERS FOR GOALPOSTS...
Leap into fountain



EARLY GOAL Joy at fanzone in Frankfurt



LOUD & PROUD
England fans at stadium yesterday



BY **ANDY LINES** Chief Reporter and **PAUL BYRNE** in Frankfurt

PRINCE William was among the fans celebrating England's early goal yesterday but there wasn't much majesty about the way supporters reacted at the final whistle.

There were some boos from Three Lions fans at the ground in Frankfurt because of the disappointing draw.

The city enjoyed a carnival atmosphere before and after the match but there were glum faces as supporters filed out of the stadium.

Construction worker Ricky Beck, 35, from Barnsley, South Yorks, said after attending the Euro 2024 game in Germany: "It was terrible."

IT worker Ross Williams, 38, also from Barnsley, said: "It was a tough watch." And

another IT worker, Mark Jones, 51, from Glastonbury in Somerset, said: "It was timid."

Terry O'Connell, 39, and his 17-year-old son Brandon flew from Perth in Australia to support England.

Terry, an electrician originally from Norton, near Middlesbrough, said: "It was a long journey but worth it despite the result."

"A win would have been great but it wasn't to be."

Brandon said: "It's been

great being in Frankfurt – a very special day." Prince William, who turns 42 today, was among the 30,000 England fans – including pop star Ed Sheeran, 33 – at the stadium.

England midfielder Jude Bellingham was cheered on by his younger brother Jobe, 18, and their mum Denise.

Three Lions supporters vastly outnumbered Denmark fans inside the ground.

There were over 300 St George's flags from towns such as Saffron Walden, Pontefract, Tividale and Christchurch. But the supporters did not have much

BRILLIANT START
Kane celebrates goal



DENMARK 1 ENGLAND 1

treatment

Prince William in crowd but fans' cheers turn to boos

ONE SAYS
IT'S ONE-NIL
Wills' delight
as goal goes in

YELL RAISERS
Supporters give
it some at game

FAMILY Jude's brother
Jobe and mum Denise

to cheer after Harry Kane's goal, with the Danes looking the better side in the 1-1 draw.

Before the game Prince William, who is president of the FA, was spotted laughing and joking with King Frederik X of Denmark.

And there were lovely scenes in one of the fanzones as the family of England player Adam Wharton, 20, enjoyed the festival atmosphere by mixing with both sets of supporters.

The 14-strong group were all wearing shirts with Adam's name and his number 25 on.

His mum Helen and dad John, both 57, were there with their other sons Scott, 26, and Simon, 24, and other relatives and friends, including Adam's cousin – who is Danish.

Helen, who had the England flag painted on her cheeks, said: "This was a wonderful family

occasion." Scott, who plays for Championship club Blackburn Rovers, said: "The atmosphere here is brilliant and everyone is enjoying themselves."

Four fans wearing crowns and large ears in tribute to King Charles were applauded by Danes. Clive Jenkins, 69, Phil Sierocinski, 66, Alex Rowson, 63, and Robert Newsome, 69, are golf pros in Germany.

Robert said: "The atmosphere was great. All the England and Denmark fans mixed together. It was a laugh."

A Danish "bus of peace" summed up the spirit of the day. Erik Bro,

55, a Liverpool fan in Denmark, said: "We wanted to bring fans together."

After driving 650 miles to Frankfurt, the consultant hoisted a St George's Cross up the bus's flag pole.

He said: "We invited our opponents in for beer. The rule was if a Dane came in with an English fan on his arm, they both have a free pint."

England fans continued to party into the night – some of them diving into a fountain.

A Danish band were cheered when they played Hey Jude in front of a pub full of English supporters. England fans were

praised for their overall behaviour and there were only three arrests before the game.

In the main Romerberg Square, there were seemingly no flashpoints as England and Denmark fans mixed in bars and cafes.

The United Kingdom Football Policing Unit said: "Around 2,000 England fans were in the city square last night and no major issues were reported. This is indicative of what we've seen across Germany so far, with the vast majority of England fans behaving extremely well."

Three England fans were arrested by German police. One for bottle throwing, one for abusing a UK officer and one for throwing a missile at police and possession of drugs."

andy.lines@mirror.co.uk

@AndyLines

HJUL OF A MESS: SEE SPORT



ELECTION 2024

ELECTION '24
COUNTDOWN

13 DAYS TO GO

Mirror
Chicken's
Diary

TREASURE Brown & Reeves
Labour's **Angela Rayner** as a teenager had posters of **East 17** and **The Prodigy** on the walls of her bedroom.

Rachel Reeves admitted she had **Gordon Brown** on hers after pals gave her a framed picture at university.



More fatigue on doorsteps. A Tory junior minister in the West Country got his name and seat jumbled, telling a voter he was "**Simon** North, Conservative candidate for Dorset **Hoare**".



Another day, another sign Reform is not hot on detail. **Nigel Farage** said he would reject the World Economic Forum and cancel the UK's membership, despite countries not actually being members.



Oops. The Conservative Party X account deleted a post which read: "If you bet on Labour, you can never win" after more details on the Tory gambling scandal emerged.

REMINDER

Don't forget to bring ID to vote on polling day. If you don't have a passport or driving licence apply for a free voter ID certificate at gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate.

You'll also need to apply for a certificate if you no longer look like the photo or if your name on your ID is different to the electoral register.



QUIZZED
Sunak and
Starmer on
Question
Time special
last night

Labour pledge to
axe NHS backlogBY **JOHN STEVENS** Political Editor

KEIR Starmer vowed last night to clear the NHS backlog within five years if he becomes PM after the General Election.

The Labour leader promised an extra two million hospital appointments a year, funded by tackling tax dodgers.

As he took part in a BBC Question Time election special, he criticised Rishi Sunak for failing to deliver on his pledge to bring down NHS waiting lists. The backlog now stands at 7.5 million.

"He blames the NHS staff," Mr Starmer said. "We will never do that... I know how hard you work all the time."

Mr Starmer said the party would put on the extra appointments at evenings and weekends, adding: "Over the course of the Parliament, we'll get it down and clear the backlog completely. We did it last time we were in power."

Mr Sunak, Sir Ed Davey of the Lib Dems and the SNP's John Swinney also appeared on the programme.

Sir Ed admitted he had made "big

mistakes" as he was confronted over his role in the Post Office scandal.

The Lib Dem leader, formerly postal minister, said he regretted initially refusing to meet Sir Alan Bates.

A student called Violet challenged the Lib Dems' decision to abandon their promise to abolish tuition fees when they went into a coalition with the Tories after the 2010 election. "How can my generation trust you?" she asked.

Sir Ed replied: "I understand why your generation lost faith in us. It was a difficult government to be in."

He added: "You shouldn't promise what you can't deliver... it was the big lesson I learned."

The showdown came ahead of a final head-to-head between the PM and Labour leader, which will be aired on Wednesday on the BBC.

A Question Time special with Nigel Farage of Reform UK and Adrian Ramsay of the Green Party will be shown next Friday evening.

HOMES TRUTH

Keir visits
building
site in York
yesterday

Picture: ADAM
GERRARD

Cost torpedo
to teen armyEXCLUSIVE BY **DAVE BURKE**

Political Correspondent

RISHI Sunak's National Service plan is in chaos as startling analysis claims training costs could sink it.

The PM claims the controversial scheme will cost £2.5billion a year.

But the non-military part will cost at least £2.67bn, Labour reckons. And the military element could cost £3.2bn, an overall cost of £5.9bn.

Shadow Paymaster General Jonathan Ashworth said: "They'll have no money to pay for pledges."

Mr Sunak was also mocked during a BBC Question Time Special.

Asked how he will punish 18-year-olds who fail to take part, he said: "You'll have sanctions... driving licences, access to finance, all sorts..."

To laughter, host Fiona Bruce said: "So you take their bank cards away?"

COST Labour's Ashworth

FLUTTER
CHAOS...

» Tories mired in poll date bets scandal
» Sunak campaign chief quits amid probe

CAN IT GET ANY WORSE FOR PM?

Starmers blitz pledge on dodgy rental pads



EXCLUSIVE BY DAVE BURKE
Political Correspondent

LABOUR last night vowed to end the scourge of cold, damp and mouldy rented homes with tough new laws saving tenants hundreds of pounds a year.

Shadow Housing Secretary Angela Rayner told the Mirror that time is up for unscrupulous landlords.

If Labour wins the General Election, landlords will have to ensure homes are up to a higher energy efficiency standard or face hefty fines.

Rishi Sunak had been set to do this but U-turned last year, saddling millions of renters with £750million extra in energy bills each year.

Unveiling the policy at a new development in Canada Water, South London, Shadow

Climate Change Secretary Ed Miliband said: "This is incredibly important for more than one million renters living in cold, leaky homes, paying hundreds of pounds more on energy bills than they need to."

Ms Rayner said she would oversee new protections to ensure tenants are not kicked out for no reason, hit by big rent hikes or forced to live in poor conditions.

Under Labour's plans, all rented homes will be required to have an Energy Performance Certificate rating of at least C by 2030. Keir Starmer meanwhile said Labour will pass a law preventing landlords cashing in on bidding wars.

He said: "What happens is the landlord effectively goes between two or three different renters driving the rent up."

The Labour leader also vowed to bring an end to landlords demanding extortionate deposits.



VOW Rayner and Miliband in London

BY **SOPHIE HUSKISSON** Political Correspondent and **MIKEY SMITH**

RISHI Sunak was last night under growing pressure to suspend three Tories being probed on betting scandal claims.

One of them, his campaign chief Tony Lee, quit as officials investigate the allegations, throwing the Prime Minister's election preparations into yet more turmoil.

It also emerged yesterday that a flurry of bets were placed on a July 4 date for the poll in the week before Mr Sunak named the date.

According to Data from Smarkets, thousands of pounds were wagered from May 14, coincidentally the day after an election planning meeting was held at Tory HQ. The date was then announced on May 22.

Even Tory bigwig Michael Gove admitted the claims "don't look great".

Tory candidate Laura Saunders, Mr Lee's wife, became the second hopeful to face a Gambling Commission probe over election betting claims.

And Mr Sunak's parliamentary aide Craig Williams last week admitted he too was being investigated.

A member of the PM's protection team has also been arrested, bailed and suspended "on suspicion of misconduct in public office" for



ON LEAVE Tony Lee



PROBE Ms Saunders



SORRY Mr Williams

allegedly betting on the poll date. But in the leaders TV debate last night, a flustered Mr Sunak refused to suspend the Tory trio, despite admitting it is "a really serious matter".

The PM also insisted he would axe anyone found breaking betting rules.

Labour leader Keir Starmer said: "It's astonishing. Rishi Sunak just

needs to take action, he needs to account for exactly who knew what."

In a letter to the PM, Labour campaign chief Pat McFadden pointed out that as only the police officer has been suspended it "looks as though there is one rule for members of the Tory Party, and another rule for everyone else". He

wrote: "I urge you to take immediate action against all those implicated. It will speak volumes if you choose to do nothing."

Lib Dem leader Ed Davey said: "I can't believe people at the top of the Conservative Party are doing this and have allowed this to happen."

Betting cheats can be jailed for up to two years under the Gambling Act.

The Gambling Commission said: "The Commission is investigating the possibility of offences concerning the date of the election."

Ms Saunders, is standing for the Tories in Bristol North West. Her solicitors insist she is co-operating with the Gambling Commission.

One local, Alan Fellows, 71, said: "It's awful, venal and stupid. The protection officer was relieved of his duties quickly but she hasn't been."

Mr Williams is standing in Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr. He has apologised and said he had made a "huge error of judgment".

A Tory spokesman said they had heard from the Gambling Commission "about a small number of individuals" and confirmed Mr Lee took "a leave of absence" on Wednesday.

sophie.huskinson@mirror.co.uk
X @soph_husk

VOICE OF THE MIRROR: PAGE 10

'Anti-Semitic' toon row



APOLOGY James

EXCLUSIVE BY SIMON MURPHY

A TORY election candidate posted an "anti-Semitic" cartoon depicting men with hooked noses at the white cliffs of Dover carrying bags of "false hopes".

CEO of a digital communication firm Stephen James, 40, claimed he is "the only true local candidate" in the deleted social media post criticising "carpetbaggers".

The MP hopeful for the Dover and Deal constituency blamed an AI app. He said: "I apologise wholeheartedly."

Gaffes keep on coming

BY **LIZZY BUCHAN**

SINCE Rishi Sunak got drenched while announcing the election in the pouring rain the Tory campaign has been full of gaffes, here are some of the worst so far...

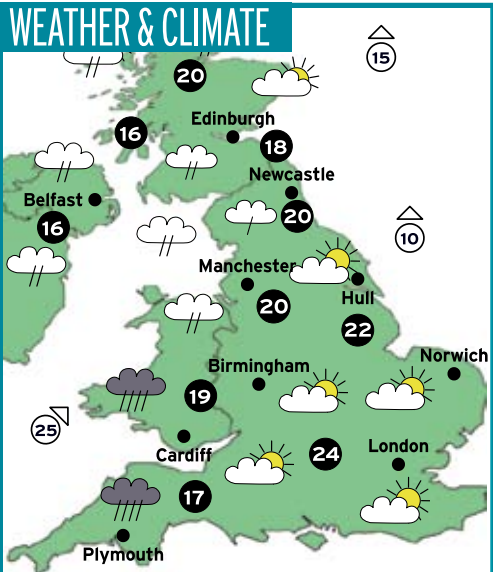
■ Mr Sunak was asked if he was captaining "a sinking ship" on an visit to Belfast's Titanic Quarter.

■ In the first Tory broadcast, the Union flag was flying upside down - recognised as a distress signal.

■ The Prime Minister left the D-Day commemorations in France early in order to rush back to record an interview with ITV.

■ Mr Sunak laughed as he was heckled by a GP - and Tory member - over funding changes at a campaign event in Wiltshire.

■ The Tories invited "car crash" comparisons as they launched their manifesto at Silverstone.



TODAY Sunny spells but turning cloudy in the west

Mainly dry with spells of sunshine, the best of these will be across eastern areas. Clouds will thicken across northern and western areas bringing spells of rain across south-west England during the afternoon and evening.

5-day forecast

	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
London	22c	23c	26c	27c	26c
Newcastle	20c	22c	24c	23c	21c
Leeds	18c	20c	23c	23c	20c
M'chester	19c	21c	24c	24c	22c
Liverpool	18c	19c	22c	24c	22c
B'ham	21c	22c	24c	25c	23c
Cardiff	18c	19c	21c	23c	22c
Plymouth	18c	19c	20c	22c	20c
Belfast	18c	20c	22c	21c	19c

BIGGER PICTURE

Today's historical average high: 18.6
June 2024 average high so far: 16.8
June historical average high: 18.6

All averages based on CET Mean Max Temp. Historical info from 1961-1990 (Source: Met Office)

CLIMATE FACT: In China and India, the biggest coal producers, 80% and 76% of people want a quick green transition, according to the largest ever climate opinion poll, conducted by the UN.

10 MIN CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6
7		8			
10	11				
12					13
	14		15		
16			17		

- ACROSS**
- 1 Atoll (4)
 - 4 Pole (4)
 - 7 Advantage (7)
 - 9 Cambs diocese (3)
 - 11 Wake-up call (5)
 - 12 Richards, West Indies batter (3)
 - 14 Asthma device (7)
 - 16 Tug (4)
 - 17 Wading bird (4)
- DOWN**
- 2 Not odd (4)
 - 3 Charge (3)
 - 5 Dovbyk, Ukraine striker (5)
 - 6 Stray (anag) (5)
 - 8 Sparkle (5)
 - 10 White piano key (5)
 - 11 Birdlike (5)
 - 13 Conjoined house (4)
 - 15 Muhammad's cousin (3)

THURSDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Stealth, 7 Mob, 8 Roost, 9 Near, 10 Edit, 13 Egret, 15 Nut, 16 Lowbrow. Down: 2 Tibia, 3 Aura, 4 Too, 5 Emended, 6 Statute, 11 Danso, 12 Stub, 14 Rho.

THE LOTTERY

LAST NIGHT'S SET FOR LIFE: 10, 18, 24, 27, 38
Life Ball: 5. One winner of £10k a month for 30yrs.

HEALTH LOTTERY: 9, 20, 40, 44, 45. Bonus: 48.

WEDNESDAY'S LOTTO: 3, 7, 13, 15, 21, 52
Bonus: 23. No winner of £5.3m jackpot.

THUNDERBALL: 1, 2, 18, 29, 34
Thunderball: 1. No £500k winner.

TUESDAY'S EUROMILLIONS: 3, 11, 33, 34, 36
Lucky Stars: 1 & 12. £164million jackpot tonight.



APPEAL Poster seeks sightings

EXCLUSIVE
BY PATRICK HILL in Tenerife

THE mum of missing teenager Jay Slater has made a tearful appeal for anyone holding him to set him free.

She sobbed: "I just want my little baby home with me."

Debbie Duncan has not heard from Jay, 19, since he left a rave on Tenerife and went with two British men to their isolated holiday apartment an hour's drive away.

After four days of fruitless searching, she fears her son may be the victim of foul play.

She begged: "If anyone does have him, let him go."

Her comments came as his best friend urged UK police to get involved in the investigation and the Mirror identified the holiday home where the teen was just hours before he disappeared.

Debbie was speaking as police and rescue teams continued to search a ravine where Jay's phone last received a signal.

The school finance officer, who



HUNT Search team combs hills

flew to the Spanish island after Jay vanished, yesterday visited a police station in the Playas de Las Americas area but left with a number of questions unanswered.

She said: "It's busy with hikers and holidaymakers up there so if he was lost someone would have seen him. That's why I think maybe he's been bundled off somewhere."

"It's just a nightmare, an absolute living nightmare. I wouldn't wish this on anybody."

"Has somebody taken him? Is he panicked and lost in the mountains? I just don't know."

"But if he is lost then why hasn't anyone seen him? I just want my little baby home with me."

Debbie said she has been getting sickening phone calls from people with "northern accents" claiming to have kidnapped her son. She's also had a Snapchat message: "Kiss goodbye to your boy, you're never going to see him again, he owes me a lot of money."

Apprentice bricklayer Jay, from Oswaldtwistle, Lancs, vanished after leaving friends, including Lucy Mae Law, at the New Rave Generation music festival in the south west of Tenerife on Sunday night. It is understood he

MISSING HOLIDAY LIVING

» Vanished Jay's pal calls for Brit cops to join hunt

HUG FOR HIS MUM
Jay with Debbie on night out



ALARM
Friend Lucy Mae Law

» If you have him let him go, begs mother

then travelled more than 20 miles north in the hire car of two men he had met earlier in the holiday.

His last contact was on Monday morning when he called Lucy saying he was in the middle of nowhere, trying to make his way home with no water and 1% left in his phone battery.

Jay's phone died 20 minutes later at 8.50am and was traced near to a trail 700 metres above the village of Masca, north west Tenerife, in the Rural de Teno Park.

Lucy, 18, who immediately raised the alarm, yesterday accused island police of fobbing her off and called for British officers to join the hunt.

She said: "We need British officers here. The island police don't speak English and don't even have a translator after three days. "I feel like they're fobbing me off.

They're still asking me the same questions as when I first reported Jay missing. I just want to find my mate. He's been gone for days. It's not looking good now.

"We feel as though it's down to us to find him and that we're doing more than the police."

Lucy added: "He's ended up out in the middle of nowhere. He was obviously thinking he would be able to get home from there. But

TEEN'S MUM TELLS OF FEAR

NIGHTMARE

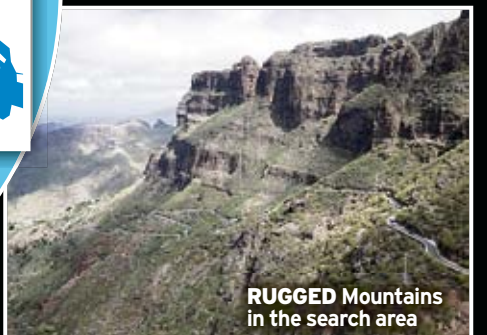
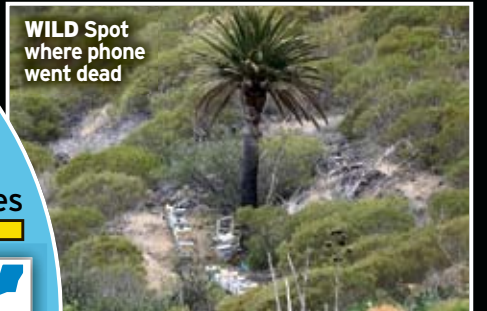
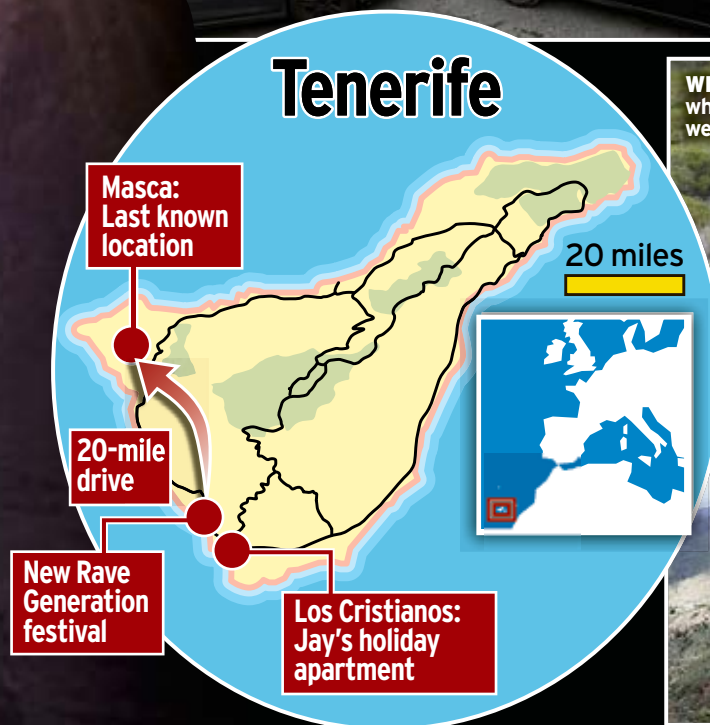


LAST SIGHTING

House where Jay stayed before vanishing



Tenerife



then in the morning he's set off walking and ended up in the mountains with nothing around."

The Mirror yesterday identified the holiday home where it is believed Jay stayed on Sunday night before taking a photo of himself holding a cigarette outside for the last Snapchat he shared early on Monday morning.

It is understood the whitewashed Casa Abuela Tina was rented by the two British men Jay was with the

night before he vanished. Their rental was due to end on Monday and they have since returned to Britain after voluntarily speaking to police.

The property adjoins a bar and restaurant on the outskirts of the remote village of Masca, just over 20 miles from the apartment in Los Cristianos where Jay was staying.

It is understood the journey back there would take 11 hours on foot.

The house is also next to a bus

shelter where it is claimed Jay had been seeking information about how to get back to his holiday apartment.

A bar worker who gave her name as Araceli said: "I know people saw him walking on his own. I saw the two British men who stayed here."

"They came in for cafe con leche a couple of times. They arrived on Saturday and were due to stay until Monday but they left on Tuesday."

Search teams were last night joined

by tracker dogs but it was too windy for a helicopter to join the hunt. Earlier the operation had been hampered by a caller wrongly claiming they saw Jay get out of a taxi in Los Cristianos.

Last night Jay's grandmother June Duncan said her son Glen – Debbie's brother – had flown out to support his sister. She added: "The longer it goes on the more worrying it is."

"I watched all that on the news

about [TV doctor] Michael Mosley and it's just so similar.

"It's hot out there and I just can't bear to think about what's happened to Jay, I'm terrified."

Jay's step-father Andy Watson, 63, said the teenager had to be "talked into going" to Tenerife by his friends.

He added: "He wasn't really all that keen."

patrick.hill@mirror.co.uk
X@Patrick_Hill

VOICE OF THE

DAILY Mirror

Tories are losing bet

THE betting scandal engulfing the Tories should be another nail in the coffin of this tawdry and discredited government.

Two Conservative candidates are being investigated for allegedly using privileged information to place bets on the timing of the election. The party's campaign director has taken leave of absence following similar claims.

Once again the Conservatives stand accused of behaving as though the rules only apply to other people.

It was the same when they broke lockdown laws while others were unable to visit loved ones in care homes or attend funerals.

And it was the same when they used the pandemic to hands contracts worth millions of pounds to cronies and donors.

If Rishi Sunak cared about standards in public life he would have acted immediately when reports of insider betting emerged.

The PM has failed to suspend the candidates while an inquiry takes place and refused to launch an investigation to discover if other staff were involved. He is not just morally blinkered but also pathetically weak.

Impacted truth

IF Labour are elected to power one of the first crises they will have to address is the dire state of dentistry.

Some 12 million people are unable to get NHS dental treatment. As a result many are living with pain or resorting to DIY treatment.

This is the consequence of the Conservatives imposing a real terms £1billion cut to dental services over the past decade.

The funding crisis has led to a staffing crisis.

In the past four years the number of dentists leaving the NHS has risen by third.

Yet again Labour must rescue a public service brought low by Tory neglect.

Lions take nap

THEY Kane, they scored but England didn't conquer.

The Three Lions need to put the disappointing draw with Denmark behind them and roar to victory against Slovenia on Tuesday.

PROBLEM GAMBLERS...

So that's a 3-way accumulator... July 4th election day, Labour to win and England to disappoint at the Euros.



EXCITED Queen Camilla with Sophie



ROYAL WAVE Princess Anne arrives in carriage



TOP HAT & TAILS King Charles at the racecourse



POISE Pals pose for a photo on Ladies Day



COMING HOME Ex-England striker Michael Owen



HOLD ON TO YOUR HATS My Little Pony-themed effort



THREE'S A CROWD Friends enjoy a chat

Hattyjapes

Racegoers flock to Ladies Day in wild & wonderful headgear

LYDIA VELJANOVSKI

AT ROYAL ASCOT

WHY settle for a feather in your cap when you can have the whole bird?

The hats were out in force on Ladies' Day at Royal Ascot but none of them could top the racegoer who turned up with a huge white owl perched on her head.

Other fetching headgear on show included one lady sporting giant roses, and another with a hat made to look like a grassy hill, complete with figures from My Little Pony.

Most spectators at the course yesterday chose more traditional headwear, including the King and Queen, who watched as their thoroughbred Gilded Water raced in the King George V stakes.

But their hopes were dashed when the horse, which gave them their first win at the Berkshire meet last year, was well beaten.

At 5pm, the display of style and sartorial splendour was rudely interrupted by rowdy football anthems, as a screen showed England v Denmark.

LOUTS

Hordes of well-heeled men sloshed £7.50 pints down their smart suits when Harry Kane temporarily gave the Three Lions the lead.

But even with ex-England hero Michael Owen in attendance, the high spirits weren't shared by everyone.

Liverpudlian David Roberts, 42, an ardent racing fan, said: "I have come to see the racing. I don't need louts."

As well as Charles and Camilla, other royals included Zara Tindall, Princess Anne and husband Sir Admiral Timothy Laurence, and Prince Edward and wife Sophie, who are celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary this week.

Model Jerry Hall, 67, wore a sophisticated Breakfast at Tiffany's-style ensemble, while singer Katherine Jenkins posed in a sculptural black headpiece, with a net face-covering.

Actress Celia Imrie looked elegant in blue, and This Morning presenter Charlotte Hawkins stunned in a pink dress.

Miss England Milla Magee, 23, wore a diamanté crown.

She said: "The headpieces some of these ladies are wearing are so stunning and I am definitely being overshadowed!"

"It takes a lot of balance and good posture."

lydia.veljanovski@mirror.co.uk
X@LydiaVeljanovs2



SMILES Zara Tindall and, below, husband Mike



ELEGANT Celia Imrie was spotted amid the crowd



ENGLISH ROSE Racegoer Gemma Mattison



WHAT A HOOT

One punter went for an OTT look at Royal Ascot yesterday

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DELIGHT Fans at Cardiff

Swifties in £300m lift for London

BY NAOMI CLARKE

FANS flocking to Taylor Swift's London gigs are expected to boost the capital's economy by £300million, a report says.

The 34-year-old will play three sold-out shows at Wembley Stadium from tonight and five in August.

London is hosting more of Swift's Eras Tour shows than any other city in the world, with nearly 640,000 people expected to attend.

Murals, a special Tube map with station names changed to her song titles, a Taylor trail of places in the city mentioned in the tracks and a series of events have been created for fans.

Mayor of London Sadiq Khan said: "We are proud to give Taylor and her fans a big London welcome."

The Greater London Authority report said the 640,000 fans are expected to spend around £471 each.

Swift's tour has taken in other UK venues, including Cardiff and Liverpool.

Solstice joy after Henge gets a clean

DEVOTEES celebrating the summer solstice were relieved to see Stonehenge undamaged by the Just Stop Oil powder spray attack.

The 4,500-year-old giant stones were cleaned in time for thousands who arrived last night then welcomed the sunrise this morning.

There was outrage when the Unesco World Heritage site, in Wiltshire, was hit on Wednesday.

Nick Merriman, of English Heritage, told BBC Radio 4: "It's vandalism to one of the most celebrated monuments."

A man aged 73 and woman, 21, were arrested.

SOLSTICE VIGILS: PAGE 23



05:00

Stansted plane is target yesterday

TARGET TAYLOR



23:12

Singer arrives on Wednesday

Just Stop Oil's private jet protest hours after star lands

BY TOM PETTIFOR Crime Editor

JUST Stop Oil sprayed orange paint on two private jets at Stansted airport where Taylor Swift's plane had landed just hours earlier.

Police arrested two women on suspicion of breaking into a private section of Stansted Airport in Essex early yesterday after the star's aircraft landed at 11pm the previous night.

The climate change group said the pair sprayed two jets using fire extinguishers filled with orange paint.

Just Stop Oil posted on X: "They cut the fence into the private airfield, demanding an emergency treaty to end fossil fuels by 2030."

A video shows one woman cutting

a hole in the fence. The pair were named as Jennifer Kowalski, 28, and Cole Macdonald, 22.

Police said they were called at 5am after two suspects entered an area "well away from the runway and main terminal" before damaging two aircraft.

The protesters were arrested on suspicion of criminal damage and interference with the use or operation of national infrastructure, police said.

Chief Supt Simon Anslow of Essex Police said: "We aren't anti-protest but we'll always take action where criminal acts take place."

Police said Swift's jet was no longer at Stansted at the time of the break-in.

According to reports it landed at 11pm on Wednesday ahead of her first

Wembley date tonight. Macdonald, of Brighton, East Sussex, said: "Billionaires are not untouchable, climate breakdown will affect every single one of us."

Kowalski, a former sustainability manager from Dumbarton, West Dunbartonshire, said: "I have to take desperate measures to make my voice heard."

It follows Just Stop Oil activists

spraying paint made from corn-flour on Stonehenge a day earlier.

Springwatch's Chris Packham said last week it he would like Swift's fans to turn up to her gigs carrying banners protesting at her prolific use of her private jet. "Is that what it's going to take?" the TV presenter asked.

In February, Swift's lawyers threatened legal action against a student who is tracking the singer's jet use as she performs more than 150 dates on her global Eras tour.

The X account CelebJets found the star's plane was the most used by celebs, emitting 8,000 tons of carbon.

A spokesman for Swift said she wasn't on every flight and others borrow the plane.

tom.pettifor@mirror.co.uk
X@tpettifor



SUPERSTAR Taylor in Cardiff on Tuesday



OIL DEMO Cole stands in front of one of the aircraft

Jitters bugged

BY MARK JEFFERIES Showbiz Editor

ALISON Steadman has had enough of theatre work after suffering from an unexpected and horrible bout of stage fright while performing.

The Gavin & Stacey star, 77, first made her name on the stage in 1977 with Abigail's Party, which later became a TV hit, and won an Olivier Award for The Rise and Fall of Little Voice in 1993.

But she has said she will never go back to acting in theatres after experiencing jitters mid-play.

The traumatic incident took place in 2012 while she was starring in Here, a three-person play focusing on a couple who perpetually argue after moving into a new flat, while having to contend with their neighbour.

Alison – who will reprise her role as Pam in Gavin & Stacey's Christmas special along with screen partner Larry Lamb – said she found it “more and more difficult” while playing the downstairs neighbour in Here.

She told the Stirring It Up podcast: “It was horrible, absolutely horrible, and it came quite unexpectedly. It was a little bit of a difficult time for me personally

Gavin & Stacey star Alison reveals she quit doing plays after ‘horrible’ stage fright



SCARE Starring in the play Here



COMEDY HIT In Gavin & Stacey with Larry Lamb

but that wasn't the real reason. I kept [the stage fright] to myself.

“I didn't want to upset the other actors or make them feel there was something they were doing or the play.

“I was totally committed but I just found it more difficult: waiting on your own and then having to go on and do a

scene and have barely any other lines. When we finished, I just thought, ‘I don't think I want to do this any more.’”

The Liverpool-born actress has only appeared in one play since the incident and she joked that it was only a small part where her character had a stroke halfway through. But she has kept busy

since, also taking TV roles in Boomers, Inside No.9 and Midsomer Murders.

However, she ruled out a stage return, saying: “It's exhausting and I'm 78 this year, and I think, ‘enough, enough.’”

mark.jefferies@mirror.co.uk

X@mirrorjeffers

PIXIE'S PANIC: PAGES 32-33



SCARE McKellen in the play Sir Ian taking a break after stage plunge

BY HANNAH ROBERTS

SIR Ian McKellen is having physiotherapy while he takes a break after falling from a stage on Monday.

He had hoped to return this week but will instead be replaced by his understudy, David Semark, for the last three nights of Player Kings at London's Noel Coward Theatre.

A statement on behalf of Sir Ian said: “I'm having physiotherapy, light exercise and a lot of rest at home.

“The many messages of love and support will, I am sure, aid the speedy recovery that my doctors have promised me.”

Lord of the Rings star Sir Ian, 85, hopes to return for the production's national tour, which begins on July 3.

NEVER AGAIN

Actor Alison says no to theatre roles

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86 salad bug victims now in hospital

AT least 86 people have now been admitted to hospital in the outbreak of E. coli linked to lettuce, although cases are slowing.

Official figures show 45 more were affected in the four days up to Tuesday, taking the total to 256.

The UK Health Security Agency said: "The rate has slowed but we expect the figure to rise as genome sequencing links cases to this outbreak strain."

Some manufacturers have recalled sandwiches and salads over fears they are linked to the outbreak.

The Food Standards Agency said: "We are confident the outbreak is linked to a small number of salad leaves. Work continues to identify the root cause."

Shockwaves 'boost heart after bypass'

DAMAGED heart muscle has been regenerated for the first time using shockwaves after bypass surgery.

Patients given the gentle 10-minute procedure were found to have an 11.3% increase in blood pumped by the heart a year later.

Those who went without got just 6.3%.

Shockwave patients could also walk further and had better life quality.

Professor Johannes Holfeld, of Innsbruck Medical University in Austria, said: "It could help millions."

"We also anticipate they will have a longer life expectancy and fewer re-hospitalisations."

The trial, which involved 63 patients in Austria, will now be extended.

We did try to get your good side but, erm...



Kim puts Putin in the picture at tyrant talks

IN THE FRAME
Kim presents Putin with his portrait



BUST FRIENDS Despots admire Vlad statue

BY MARTIN FRICKER

WHAT do you get for the man who has almost everything (and helps himself to the rest)?

When it's Russia's preening president Vladimir Putin, a picture and statue of himself is a fairly safe bet.

North Korea's desperate despot, Kim

Jong Un, was clearly eager to please his pal when the pair met in Pyongyang. In return, the Kremlin strongman gave Kim a Soviet-made Aurus limousine, a tea set and a naval officer's dagger.

The tyrants exchanged gifts ahead of talks, which ended with them promising each other mutual aid if either

country faces "aggression". Observers say North Korea provides Russia with munitions to use in Ukraine in exchange for economic assistance.

Putin also held talks in Vietnam yesterday with President To Lam.

martin.fricke@mirror.co.uk
X@martinfricker

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HELLO Pair with Barney Emily shares joy over birth of first baby

BY SUSAN KNOX

EMILY Attack has given birth to a baby boy, her first child with boyfriend Alistair Garner.

The Inbetweeners star, 34, gave birth to Barney and took to Instagram to share the first photograph of the newborn.

She wrote: "We have a beautiful son. Barney James Garner. All my dreams have come true."

Emily announced her pregnancy on Boxing Day with a baby bump snap.

The actress and comedian said at the time: "I've never been so happy and utterly terrified at the same time."

Emily and her nuclear scientist partner Alistair have known one another since they were children.

But their relationship in recent years blossomed into a romance.



RECORD Steve and the eel Eel do nicely for stunned angler Steve

BY JAMES PODESTA

ANGLER Steve Ricketts caught a monster from the deep, landing Britain's biggest freshwater eel.

Breaking a 46-year record the 40-year-old eel weighed 11lbs 3oz, was more than 3ft long, had a girth of 12ins.

Steve, 62, caught it at a lake in Kent. He narrowly beat the previous record catch of 11lb 2oz by Steve Terry on the Kingfisher Lake in Hampshire in 1978.

The European eel, which he released back into the water, has been confirmed as an official record by the British Record Fish Committee.

Steve, from Catford, South East London, said: "It had a small head so when that popped out the water, I didn't think it big."

"But when I saw the rest of it, I shouted in shock."

'Katie is helping Eamonn through the tough times'

Counsellor tells pals she is in for 'the long haul'

NOT SO
HAPPY
Ruth and
Eamonn
pictured
in 2022



EXCLUSIVE
BY MARK JEFFERIES
Showbiz Editor



THE relationship counsellor who is helping Eamonn Holmes heal after his marriage split does not want to be seen as a "marriage wrecker", friends have said.

Katie Alexander, 42, has been on a number of outings with the GB News presenter in the past year, as well as being pictured at his home.

Eamonn and fellow TV presenter Ruth Langford announced last month they will divorce after 28 years together, 14 of them married.

But one source close to Katie said: "She is helping Eamonn through the tough times but doesn't want to be seen as a marriage wrecker. The friendship has grown in recent months but Eamonn's marriage has been over for some time."

"She wants to help Eamonn with his situation and their friendship has grown over a period of time."

"She feels she will be close to him for a long period and is in this for the long haul."

Before the divorce announcement, cracks had started to appear in Eamonn and Ruth's relationship and they had not been photographed together for two years.

Divorced mother-of-three Katie was spotted driving to and from Eamonn's luxury flat last week and was named at the weekend as someone helping him through the pain of a divorce.

According to reports, former This Morning host Eamonn moved out of his marital home in Surrey last month after wife Ruth, 64, found messages between him and another mystery woman on a laptop.

Katie met Eamonn, 64, on Twitter in 2015 after she commented on a post and it sparked a conversation.

Last October, he attended a charity fundraising event in Yorkshire, close to Katie's home, and became a patron of the cause.

The counsellor herself has worked for the charity as a therapist.

As well as his marriage breakdown, Eamonn has problems walking and has been suffering chronic back pain for almost two years.

His spokesman declined to comment.

mark.jefferies@mirror.co.uk
X @mirrorjeffers

“
Their
friendship
has grown
over a
period of
time

MIRROR SOURCE ON
EAMONN AND KATIE

COMFORT
Counsellor
Katie
Alexander

ONE of the better arguments for working in an office rather than from home is that old hands show the new how it's done while the young inject life into the old.

Beats squinting at little Zoom images of workmates on a laptop.

It's the same with kids. Second grandchild Canny C wouldn't pick up nearly half as much from elder brother Little L if they were just online siblings.

I was a middle child, third of six, and don't recall learning anything from my two elder sisters. But I would have. I was just

Granda Kev

KEVIN MAGUIRE



too young to realise. Canny C has a smart tutor in Little L who, after an initial bout of resentment, is reassuringly tolerant whenever his train set is messily derailed.

What he has, she wants. What he says, she repeats. Where he goes, she follows.

Age gaps of six and 10 years launched my three kids into different orbits whereas the two years between Little L and Canny C plant them firmly on the same planet.

Speech is the most obvious gift from a first child to second, Canny C echoing

snatches of his sentences. In a cafe he chose a baked potato so she asked for an 'aked 'tato. His pick of peach and passion fruit yoghurt was reduced to 'oghurt. The waitress knew exactly what she meant.

All second children advance quicker than first. The elder is a pathfinder for others to follow.

Canny C is very lucky but no more likely to pass on her thanks than I was.

In fact, this column may be the only proof to either in years to come that theirs was once a teacher-pupil relationship.

'DESPICABLE'

BY CHRISTOPHER BUCKTIN US Editor

THE heir to a major Coca-Cola bottling firm's fortune has been ordered to pay an ex-employee a record £710million in sexual assault damages.

Alkiviades David, 56, was warned "never to think of violating another woman's body" when a former production assistant won a £45.5m sexual battery payout



DEFEAT David

Bottle heir £710m payout for 'rape'

against him five years ago. But the billionaire has now been ordered to pay the record sum by a Los Angeles jury after he was accused of raping another female employee. The woman alleged she

was harassed and raped over three years from 2016 to 2019.

Lawyer Gary Dordick said: "It's so despicable. He raped my client while on trial in another case. This monumental verdict marks a significant triumph for justice and sets a precedent in the fight against workplace sexual assault."

David has yet to respond to a request for comment.

chris.bucktin@mirror.co.uk
X@DailyMirror

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1980s GAY KISS



TRAINING Stephen, right, on Germany gun range, 1982

BY HOLLIE BONE and ASHLEY PEMBERTON

To most it is just a cap badge, but to Stephen Close it represents a victory in the fight against the traumatic discrimination that almost destroyed his life.

The 61-year-old was stripped of the military emblem after he was drummed out of the Army in disgrace for kissing a fellow soldier in 1983.

He was court martialled, jailed for six months and struggled to find work because of his conviction.

But he has now become the first gay veteran to have his ceremonial cap badge returned, 40 years on from his painful dismissal – after being given a royal pardon in 2013.

Speaking of the emotional event at the Royal Fusiliers' regimental HQ in the Tower of London this week, Stephen said: "It was a proud moment for me. It took a lifetime, but it came and it has given me closure."

"I served alongside my brother, he said during my court martial he loves me and I am a fusilier and always will be, no matter what they said in there. He was at my ceremony and had a tear in his eye."

But Stephen told how his ordeal has robbed him of several jobs, a family and a relationship as he was not allowed to adopt children.

When he was reported for kissing his comrade, homosexuality was banned in the military. Stephen was stationed in West Berlin and hit it off with a fellow soldier after a night out.

They were reported by a colleague who saw them kissing.

The pair were quizzed and swabbed for DNA samples before being paraded around the base in front of their peers.

Stephen and his partner were convicted of gross indecency. They served their time in separate prisons and never saw each other again.

During his time behind bars he was made to wear a red ribbon to mark him out to guards and fellow inmates.

Stephen said: "I went out with some friends and ended up back at one of their rooms. Their room was shared with another soldier who I found attractive. I was still a virgin at the time, it's not like it was a regular thing."

"We got chatting and there was a bit

of chemistry and we started kissing. He suggested we go somewhere more private and we went into another room.

"We thought his roommate had collapsed, but he hadn't and he saw us kissing and reported us."

"I suffered with anxiety for a long time. It was frustration really, it took a toll on my mental health."

"It wasn't just the court case, it was the abandonment from my military mates, who knew who I was. That hurt."

Homosexuality was decriminalised in the UK in 1967, but it remained an offence in the armed forces until 1994.

And the ban on gay people serving was not lifted until 2000.

Stephen, of Salford, Gtr Manchester, was unable to work with children, vulnerable people or adopt kids.

He was pardoned in the same year as computer pioneer and code-breaker Alan Turing, following years of campaigning.

Stephen added: "In Nazi Germany, gays had to wear pink triangles, I had to wear a red ribbon."

He said for years he had felt too ashamed to attend Remembrance events and had found it too painful to go to regimental reunions. Stephen had hoped to continue the engineering apprenticeship which he gave up to join the Army but was rejected due to his conviction.

He later hoped to train in the medical profession but was unable to go into further education because he was not allowed on school and college premises.

Stephen, now a housing association caretaker, said: "I got this job as soon as I got my pardon. The problem is that I was 50 years of age, it was too late to train for anything. I had some crap jobs."

"I was working in a warehouse once and they did a criminal record check and told me I had to leave."

"I was escorted out of the warehouse, across the shop floor, in front of everyone. They didn't know why, they just saw that I was a sex offender."

"I was a manager of a window cleaning firm and we got a contract for cleaning police stations, but I was called in by the sergeant who explained I couldn't come on the premises. The boss told me to leave."

"One of my partners wanted to adopt

"I suffered anxiety, it really took a toll on my mental health"

STEPHEN ON TRAUMA OF BEING AXED FROM ARMY



SECRET LIFE In Berlin with Fusiliers in 1982

THAT RUINED SOLDIER'S LIFE

Badge victory for veteran
axed from Army in shame

Getting my cap back took a lifetime.. but it gives me closure

**CAPPY
DAYS**
Stephen and
badge. Inset,
giving salute



and I had to explain that we couldn't because of my conviction. It was one of the reasons we split up."

In 2013, Greater Manchester Police asked Stephen for a DNA sample for the national database because of his record. A campaign led to his DNA being destroyed and his record erased.

Stephen has since been recognised by the force for his outstanding contributions to the local community.

He told how the Royal Fusiliers has changed its attitude to LGBTQ+ recruits, with many of them attending his cap badge ceremony.

Stephen added: "There were a lot of people in the room that day that came in after the ban was lifted.

"My battalion has been quite proud

to have LGBT recruits to demonstrate they're openly accepting of gay people.

"I would encourage any young gay person to join the Army now, but it's taken a while. Even a few years after the ban was lifted, I wouldn't have, but I would now.

"People are accepting it more now, eventually it just became the norm, it's a good thing."

Stephen had his cap badge restored after recommendations made by an LGBTQ+ independent veterans review last year. Led by Britain's first openly gay judge, Lord Etherton, it heard the experiences of 1,145 recruits who served between 1967 and 2000.

Hollie.bone@mirror.co.uk
X@Hollie_Savannah

Now compensate LGBTQ+ vets

A SUNDAY Mirror campaign to restore justice for gay veterans has seen many victories in the last four years.

Those who were stripped of their medals had them returned in time for Remembrance Day in 2021, and last year they received a long-awaited apology from the government.

The campaign, backed by Dame Kelly Holmes, is still calling for compensation for LGBTQ+ recruits, many of whom say the mental scars they suffered will last a lifetime.

Up to 20,000 LGBTQ+ forces staff were drummed out of careers they loved until the services gay ban was



APOLOGY Dame Kelly in Sunday Mirror

lifted in 2000. Some were jailed or forced to endure shaming by having medals ripped from their uniforms.

Dame Kelly, who came out as gay in the Sunday Mirror in 2022, told of her horrific experiences in the Army

during the 1990s. They included a search of her barracks by military police looking for gay people, which left her "traumatised" and "afraid to live my authentic self and admit to being a gay woman".

Following the independent report by Lord Etherton last year, LGBTQ+ veterans can now seek redress.

Irwin Mitchell solicitors called for a debate over the compensation scheme, adding: "It's positive that veterans can now seek redress. However, in terms of the reparation scheme, it's too early to say whether it will fairly compensate individuals."

Tory war on green energy costs £15bn

Bills up after Cam 'cut the crap' crusade

EXCLUSIVE
BY **GRAHAM HISCOTT** Head of Business

ENERGY bills are £15billion higher as a result of the Tories' drive to "cut the green crap", according to a report.

Ex-Prime Minister David Cameron allegedly made the remark in 2013 as his government sought to remove environmental levies on bills.

But while policy decisions made at the time were labelled as saving households money, the new report says they had the opposite effect.

It has been compiled by the Green Britain Foundation, funded by green energy supplier

Ecotricity. The Tories ended up banning onshore wind, removing financial support for domestic solar, scrapping home insulation support schemes and removing the zero-carbon standard for new-build homes.

The report claims doing so prevented a longer-term benefit and bills have been drastically higher over the past decade than if the policies had remained.

Dale Vince, founder of Ecotricity and a Labour donor, said: "Tory decisions to hold back green energy have cost households dearly. Last year, the worst-affected homes paid £1,500 more for energy than they would have."



CHANGES Cameron

graham.hiscott@mirror.co.uk
X @Grahamhiscott



Jen's garden party

MUM-TO-BE Jenna Coleman wears a fabulous floral dress to the opening of an exhibition of... fabulous floral fashions. The Doctor Who star, 38, was at Chatsworth House, Derbys, to see designer Erdem Moralioglu's latest creations. They are inspired by former lady of the manor Deborah, Duchess of Devonshire, and historical patterns and textiles.



Bank votes to hold interest rates steady

BY **GRAHAM HISCOTT**

THE Bank of England kept interest rates at a 16-year high of 5.25% yesterday.

Two members of the Bank's nine-strong Monetary Policy Committee had voted to cut rates.

The decision was expected, with the election two weeks away and wage growth still high.

Inflation returned to the Bank's 2% target for the first time in nearly three years this week.

But it remains keen for a further slowdown in core inflation and prices in the service sector.

Governor Andrew Bailey said: "It's good news that inflation has returned to our 2% target."

"We need to be sure it will stay low and that's why we've held rates at 5.25%."

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BY ADAM ASPINALL

A LOTTERY millionaire was caught drink-driving after being shopped by his new luxury car.

Dad-of-three Kevin Jones, 58, paid £51,000 for the Mercedes out of his £1.2million winnings.

The car's automatic telematics system called officers to the scene after he span off the road, crashed through a bridge and landed in a stream, a court has heard.

Police found the car in the water and believed Jones, who was giving his daughter a lift, was under the influence, magistrates were told.

Prosecutor James Sprunks said: "The defendant was unsteady on his feet and was slurring his words."

Jones was breathalysed and was one-and-a-half times the drink-drive limit. The court heard he had necked cans of cider.

It was said Jones was taking his daughter, 31, home from a family visit at about 6pm on May 15.

Huw Williams, representing Jones, said: "He came round a corner and the back end slid towards a bridge. "He couldn't correct it and crashed through barriers and into the brook. He suffered a slight concussion."

Mr Williams added: "He told officers he had drunk about four to five cans of dark fruits cider earlier that day, between 11am [and noon].

"He rarely drinks but had a few that morning. He didn't think he'd be over the limit. He is ashamed and embar-

£1.2m

Amount he scooped in January in the People's Postcode Lottery

rassed." Mr Williams added that Jones told police: "I am very sorry and thank you for doing a good job."

Magistrates banned Jones from driving for 14 months, which can be cut by doing a drink-driving rehabilitation course. He was fined £440 and told to pay a £176 surcharge and £85

costs. As he left the dock, he said: "Thank you, I'm genuinely very sorry."

He crashed the Mercedes C220 near Llanbadarn Fynydd in Powys. It is understood that no one was hurt.

Jones travels to take care of his elderly parents two or three times a week, as well as to look after his

daughter, Llandrindod Wells magistrates court was told.

It was added Jones has 12 previous convictions for things such as road traffic offences, with the last in 1995.

He scooped his huge windfall on the People's Postcode Lottery in January, becoming Britain's biggest

winner in the competition. He was the only player in the full winning postcode in Llandrindod Wells.

Each ticket was worth £403,638, but he had three. He said his first goal was to buy a car. The court heard the motor engineer is now retired.

adam.aspinall@mirror.co.uk @MirrorAsp



Lottery winner is shopped for drink-driving by own luxury car



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| 20 – 24 AUG | TRURO Hall for Cornwall |
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| 16 – 21 SEP | EASTBOURNE Congress |
| 23 – 28 SEP | WOLVERHAMPTON Grand |
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27 – 30 AUG
SOUTHAMPTON MAYFLOWER THEATRE
1 SEP
SWANSEA ARENA



Fans up at the crack of yawn...

EARLYBIRDS on Glastonbury Tor watch in awe as the sun peeks above the horizon marking the summer solstice. All over the country people gathered to witness the longest day of the year, including

hundreds of swimmers who began it with a dip at lidos in Peterborough and Ilkley.

And King Edward's Bay beach in Tynemouth, North Tyneside, was packed with fans soaking up the spectacle.

BY **MARTIN BAGOT** Health Editor

THE number of dentists quitting the NHS has soared by a third in the past four years.

Data also shows 3,532 practitioners in England are nearing retirement age, sparking fears the oral hygiene crisis could get even worse.

House of Commons Library research for the Lib Dems found more than 2,000 dentists left the NHS in 2022-23, up from 1,516 in 2018-19

OFF THE SCALE

Dentists quitting NHS up by a third in 4 years

amid Tory cuts and a flawed payment scheme. Lib Dem chief Ed Davey said: "Millions are going without basic dental care, with many pulling their own teeth due to the lack of services.

"The government has pushed dentistry to the brink and it is children and parents who are paying

the price of their neglect. Years of this government kicking the can down the road is creating an exodus of dentists from the NHS."

If an NHS dentist treats more patients than their contract target they receive no extra payment, effectively capping the numbers given

access. The budget for England has already had a £1billion real-terms cut over the past decade due to inflation.

Shawn Charwood, of the British Dental Association, said: "Starved of funds, and

often paying for NHS treatments out of their own pocket, a growing number of dentists are walking away.

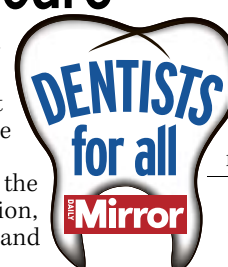
"Saving this service will require wholesale reform and sustainable funding."

A Mirror online petition demanding Dentists for All now has 222,000 signatures.

martin.bagot@mirror.co.uk

X@MartinBagot

VOICE OF MIRROR: PAGE 10



Bus cuts stop mum visiting son's grave

BY LUCY THORNTON
BUS service cuts have left a grieving mum struggling to visit her soldier son's grave.

Janette Thompson said it "meant the world" to go and sit with Bradley, who took his own life at 21.

But the No 405 bus from Selby, North Yorks, to Doncaster was axed because it was losing money and now the heartbroken mum is finding

it hard to make the 20-mile journey by the much-dearer train.

Janette, right, begged bus firm Arriva: "Please reinstate at least two services so I can have half an hour with Bradley."

She said of her the Royal Engineers son: "He was one of the most



amazing young men. Funny, intelligent, so witty, a cheeky young man."

Arriva said there was a good train service.

A poll shows the public believe bus services are failing. Around 40% of those surveyed want more investment.

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PAUL ROUTLEDGE

Telling it like it is...

SLEAZY COME, SLEAZY GO

Two Conservative candidates and a top party executive are caught up in Gamblegate, the latest Tory scandal. Craig Williams, a parliamentary aide of Rishi Sunak seeking re-election in Montgomeryshire, admitted betting on the poll date just before it was announced.

Now, Laura Saunders, standing in Bristol North-West, and her husband Tony Lee, Tory director of campaigning, are being investigated by the Gambling Commission over similar allegations. He's

taking a few weeks off, but unlike a Met officer with Sunak's protection team suspended amid similar charges, none of the Tories have been stood down.

Why not? These are serious allegations, not just the usual whiff of sleaze. And don't stop there.

Labour should set up an independent, judge-led Corruption Commission to investigate all the misdemeanours, misconduct, illicit Covid profiteering and plain wrong-doing in the 14 sordid years of Tory rule. Let's have the truth!

Tory stronghold up North within sight for Labour

THE unthinkable may actually be about to happen: a Labour MP in the Yorkshire Dales.

Opinion polls suggest that local man Malcolm Birks could win rural Skipton and Ripon, a Tory bastion from time immemorial.

This would be the biggest upset since, well, the last biggest one when Labour won the North Yorkshire mayoralty contest last month.

Architect Malcolm, 48, is fighting Scots-born Julian Smith, who moved 'ere 15 years ago for a safe seat, like his boss Rishi Sunak in next-door Richmond.

Times they are a changin', and this could well prove second time lucky for Malcolm, a Glusburn lad. He was runner-up nine years ago, in Labour's best ever performance.

I wrote recently that he had a mountain to climb in this election. Well, he's left base camp and he's attacking the summit.



ON TRACK Malcolm

Left base camp and attacking the summit, he's neck and neck with Tory

The polls have him neck and neck with the Tory, and one even put him ahead. "I think it's on," he told me over a pint of BYB in a Skipton bistro (yes, they have 'em up 'ere). "I'm in with a chance."

That's what I said about the metro-mayor election when Labour pulled off a sensational victory, as they did in the Selby by-election previously. It's not just wishful drinking.

Family man Malcolm has some bright ideas to take to Westminster, like GB Housing, a government body to tackle the homes crisis alongside state-owned GB Energy. He'd be a breath of fresh air in the

home of democracy. The result is likely to be decided by tactical voting. If enough Lib Dems and Greens sink their differences and join Labour to create an anti-Sunak united

front, Malcolm is home and dry.

Now that's where common sense lies.

» Not being a football fan, I didn't see England's big Euros match against Denmark last night.

Boys running around in baggy shorts and pink trainers, mostly to no great effect. Not my idea of drama.

And can somebody tell me why the team staff wear dinner ladies' smocks?

They're called tabards, says Mrs R, and she should know, having worked in school meals.



Beer nutters want to outlaw the head on pub pints. My tight-fisted great-uncle Robinson Routledge, who kept the Shoulder of Mutton in Castleford (both now deceased) would ask on his night out if he could get a whisky in his pint. If they said "Yes", he'd growl: "Then fill it full of f***ing beer."



BOND Rafe & Timothy Spall

Nepotism let me dream of being a star

BY **NICOLA METHVEN**
TV Editor

RAFE Spall admits he is a "nepo baby" who has benefited from his dad Timothy being a top TV star.

But despite his famous father paving his way, the actor argues he has never actually won him a gig.

Life of Pi star Rafe, 41, said: "When people talk about nepotism, they think, 'Your dad has made a phone call for you' and 'He's called the director'. That has never happened.

"But my nepotism means that I always felt the industry was for me."

And speaking to Kathy Burke on her podcast Where There's a Will There's a Wake, Rafe added: "He is my dad but I forget how brilliant he is.

"People love him. He means such a lot to people. I am so proud of that."



SHOWS Paul McCartney

Macca opens up about his self doubts

BY **MARK JEFFERIES**
Showbiz Editor

SIR Paul McCartney says he always thinks he could do better despite being one of the greatest songwriters.

The former Beatle, 82, says he has always had moments of self-doubt, adding: "I've actually got a lot of reasons to believe that I'm good, but I don't."

He made the admission in a question session ahead of the release of One Hand Clapping, the live studio album by Wings.

It has finally been released 50 years after the band headed to Abbey Road Studios to record it.

Sir Paul added: "I should have been sure of myself. I've proved that I can write songs people remember."

He will play December tour dates in Manchester and London, with tickets on general sale today.

Extraordinary moment that changed would-be bomber's mind

I could have been on that ward

WORDS OF CALM
Hero Nathan Newby talked down bomb man

BY **LUCY THORNTON**

AN alleged terrorist determined to bomb a hospital was "talked down" by a patient who told him "I could be on that ward".

Mohammad Farooq, 28, on trial accused of preparing a murderous attack, met Nathan Newby having a smoke by the entrance.

He told police: "That bloke I ran into told me 'I could be on that ward'.

"It really hit me. I wasn't thinking about what the patients would be thinking, only thinking of the staff."

The jury heard Farooq, who worked at the hospital and had a grudge against some staff, had a pressure cooker bomb in a bag.

He said Mr Newby told him: "Look, pick the bag up and we will go over to the benches and talk there."

In his statement, Farooq said he told Mr Newby he was thinking of putting the bomb in the kitchen at St James's Hospital, Leeds, "where the nurses go in".

But he allegedly told police later: "I wasn't ready to die. Looking at it now I even find it extreme. But at the time



TERROR CHARGE Mohammad Farooq

I thought it was appropriate, just to get a reaction out of them."

Sheffield crown court heard Farooq denied messaging ISIS and said: "They've been messaging me!"

He claimed he'd Googled secret early-warning base RAF Menwith Hill near Harrogate "out of curiosity".

He also drove there 10 days before his arrest. He told police: "I was just walking around, just fresh air.

"I'm always on my own. That's why I argue with my wife, because I never take her anywhere."

At Monday's opening of the trial it was claimed Farooq initially planned to attack Menwith Hill but security was too high so he decided to attack the hospital in January 2023 instead.

Farooq, from Leeds, denies preparing acts of terrorism but admits firearms offences, possessing an explosive and having a document likely to be useful to terrorists.

The trial continues.

lucy.thornton@mirror.co.uk
X@lucethornton



ALERT Bomb squad at St James's Hospital in Leeds



MEDAL ROW Nick Adderley

Police chief told 'pack of lies' about bro's war service

BY **MARTIN FRICKER**

A CHIEF Constable's claims about his brother's Falklands service are a "pack of lies", a misconduct panel has been told.

Nick Adderley is alleged to have exaggerated his rank and length of

service, and lied about his naval achievements.

He also allegedly claimed to be a Falklands War veteran but was only 15 when the conflict started in 1982. Adderley, Northamptonshire Police chief, is currently suspended on his

full pay of £176,000. He previously claimed a South Atlantic Medal he was pictured wearing was given to him by his brother Richard.

The SAM was awarded for service in the conflict. But Richard only left for the islands after

hostilities ended, a misconduct hearing was told. John Beggs KC, for the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, said that Adderley's claims were "utterly preposterous".

The hearing continues.

Policing minister's wife sued over '£1.5m client poaching'

BY TOM MASTERS

THE wife of policing minister Chris Philp allegedly cost her former employer £1.5million by poaching clients to set up her own firm.

Elizabeth Philp is being sued by Dr Marion Gluck for corporate espionage in London's High Court.

Dr Gluck claims she made illegal use of confidential data not wiped from a work laptop belonging to London Specialist

CLAIMS Elizabeth Philp



Pharmacy Limited. Mrs Philp quit as its CEO in 2017 to set up Roseway Labs.

It is claimed that, along with three other former LSP workers, Philp conspired to poach her former employer's client lists for their new firm, leading to losses of approximately £1.5m.

Dr Gluck, an innovator in supplying treatments for hormonal imbalances, is seeking hundreds of thousands of pounds in compensation. Mrs Philp denies the allegations.

Kids failed by cash shortfall

SCHOOL leaders called for pupils with special needs to be made a priority.

The number of children with additional needs has risen by 101,000 in a year to more than 1.6 million.

Paul Whiteman, NAHT's general secretary, said: "Pupils are being let down by a systemic SEN funding crisis, simply unable to access the support and education they deserve."

"Funding to support children with special needs has failed to keep pace with growing demand."

Have you or your family been affected by the cuts? Or have you been shocked by how your area has been hit? I want to reveal what's really happening around the country every week.

Email: realbritain@mirror.co.uk



In association with
Unite the Union

LAST winter, four Afghan sisters arrived in Cumbria in freezing weather, without their beloved mum and dad or their rescue dog, Lucy.

Their aim – to play for Manchester City's women's team.

The Ghafouri sisters are all talented footballers and coaches, but their dream of playing at the top level has been thwarted over and over again – by the Taliban, by war, by prejudice and by injury. Goal machine Mozghan, 28, and 30-year-old Roma have so far made it on to the books at Carlisle United, the nearest club to where they were settled by the Home Office as refugees.

Rozma, 32, and Resalat, 26, will join their sisters in coaching kids over the summer holidays.

While they wait for Man City to discover them, these enterprising women have set up their own hair and beauty salon, 4 Sisters, in the covered market in the centre of Carlisle, where a steady stream of locals come for manicures, hair extensions and eyelash treatments.

The sisters worked nights in a local food factory for eight months to save up for the rent for their unit inside the market and for equipment.

IMAGINE

"We started playing football after watching Ronaldo playing on the TV when we were refugees in Iran," says Resalat, speaking during Refugee Week, and as Euros mania begins to take hold in their adopted England.

"We couldn't imagine a world where girls played football, but we just played anyway, in the streets for hours and hours with all the local boys."

A teacher spotted their talent, and they were soon walking an eight-mile round trip every day after school to train. Three of the sisters became known as "The Magic Triangle" for their tight passing as they played futsal – the small-sided, hard surface game – in the refugee camps.

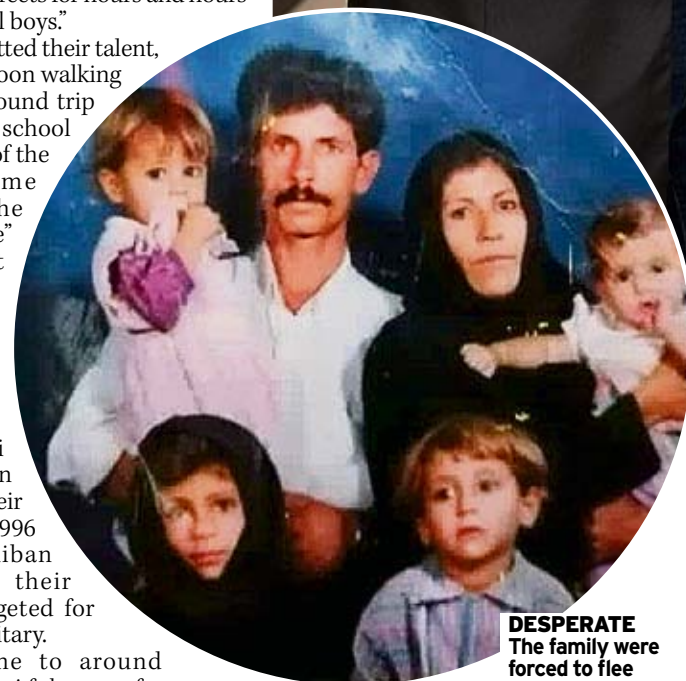
The Ghafouri family had been forced to flee their homeland in 1996 when the Taliban invaded, and their father was targeted for being in the military.

Iran is home to around three million Afghan refugees, many undocumented. Overnight the middle-class family became labourers living in the city of Shiraz.

Mozghan rose through the ranks of the women's game in Iran, but when she got to the country's Premier League, she received devastating news.

"No refugees are allowed in the Premier League in Iran, and we were not allowed to play in the national team either – however good we were," Mozghan says. "It was heartbreaking. I had lived in Iran since I was a very young child." The sisters

PASSION
Resalat,
Roma,
Mozghan
and Rozma



DESPERATE
The family were forced to flee

had already faced prejudice just for playing football in a country where women have few basic rights.

"My dad is a very traditional Afghan guy and people still say to him, you shouldn't let your girls play football," Rozma says. "They would play the religion card."

"But my mum always said, 'I will stand up for you'. She said she's not taking any crap and my girls can do what they like."

The sisters wrote to the United Nations who helped them set up their

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In the opener – the Albany Stakes – Aidan O'Brien's Fairy Godmother will look to follow up her last-to-first success in a Naas Group 3. Unbeaten Mountain Breeze and Hot Darling line up in opposition. The first of the Group 1s is the Commonwealth Cup at 3:05pm. Inisherin has been supplemented after his wide-margin Sandy Lane Stakes victory. Elite Status impressed in the Carnarvon Stakes on his return.

Then the three-year-old fillies take the spotlight for the Coronation Stakes. Surprise 1,000 Guineas winner Elmalka (3:45pm) will hope to prove that was no fluke. Ramatuelle and Porta Fortuna filled the places at Newmarket. Opera Singer – third in the Irish 1,000 Guineas – adds further depth.

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REAL BRITAIN

Wynne-Jones standing up for you and your family



TALENTED
Goal machine
Mozhgan



REUNITED
With rescue
dog Lucy



in Whitehaven and now Carlisle. Mozhgan and Roma were signed by Carlisle United, and Mozhgan scored 10 goals from 12 starts in her first season, but then disaster struck again. She injured her anterior cruciate ligament, a football injury that has plagued England heroes such as Beth Mead and Leah Williamson.

"It's like some spell – like people have jinxed us," says Mozhgan, who is trying to raise £8,000 for treatment. "I am asking the universe why these things are happening to me."

"If I keep trying hard why does it keep happening to me? I have trained and trained so hard."

While Mozhgan waits for treatment, the sisters keep going – running their salon, taking on factory work and coaching young people. They are also ambassadors for Refugee Week, thanks to sponsorship from a project called Migration: Making Britain Great, which celebrates the contribution of migrants to sport and society.

Lucy – the dog their family rescued in Iran where owning dogs is banned – has recently joined them in the UK, and they are watching wall-to-wall Euros, cheering on not just England but their hero, the Portugal captain.

"Our footballing heroes Ronaldo, David Beckham, they all had setbacks but they went on to live their dreams," Mozhgan says.

"Inspired by them, we will keep on trying."

Visit refugeeweek.org.uk. You can donate towards Mozhgan's treatment at gofund.me/e175fdec



DETERMINED
Mozhgan playing for
Iranian women's team,
Fara Istatis Karan

own team, Ariana, for refugee women – a name they explain comes from the ancient name for Afghanistan.

Mozhgan had resigned herself to a career playing for Ariana, when she had a phone call from Afghanistan's national women's coach in the summer of 2021.

It was a call up to return and play for her country, as well as the Herat team in the Premier League.

"I remember how much I was looking forward to going back to play

for the national team," she says. "This was my dream coming true."

Mozhgan had applied for her passport, booked flights and was set to travel when the Taliban reinvaded Kabul in August 2021 – prompting the team captain Khalida Popal to urge national team players to delete their social media accounts and even burn their football kits to save

their lives. By August 25, 75 Afghan women athletes including football players, had been evacuated from the country. Mozhgan picked up a voicemail from the team's coach.

"The message said there is no longer a women's national team of Afghanistan," she recalls.

"It said, we don't have a team any more. It was devastating." Blocked from

"
I was going to
play for the
national team,
it was a dream
come true

AMBASSADORS
Soccer star sisters



OUR DAILY
PUB QUIZ1 How many books
are there in the
Harry Potter series?2 What are rhino
horns made
from?3 What kind of
clothing item are
espadrilles?4 What nut is in
the middle of a
Ferrero Rocher?5 What did video
game giant
Nintendo originally
start out selling?

ANSWERS: PAGE 52

Fine Boeing £20bn for plane disasters

Families demand justice after two crashes and 'broken' pledge

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157
DIEDEthiopian
Airlines 737
fell into field

BY CHRISTOPHER BUCKTIN US Editor

BOEING bosses must be prosecuted and the plane-maker fined almost £20bn for not honouring its safety pledge after two air crashes, say victims' families.

In all, 346 people died when two of its new 737 Max jets plunged out of the sky in 2018 and 2019. The disasters were dubbed "the deadliest corporate crime in US history".

The families' lawyer, Paul Cassell, said the £20billion would be "justified" given the "enormous human costs of Boeing's crimes".

He said the US government should prosecute those then leading Boeing, including CEO Dennis Muilenburg.

The first crash was in October 2018, when a 737 Max 8 operated by Indonesia's Lion Air dived into the Java Sea. The second was in March 2019, when an Ethiopian Airlines Max 8 crashed six minutes after take-off from Addis Ababa.

Flaws in the planes' software that took control from the pilots without their knowledge were found to have played a role in both crashes.

Investigators concluded that an external sensor sent the wrong data to onboard computers, which then

lowered the plane's nose. The families' push for charges and a giant fine comes as the US Justice Department considers whether to revive a criminal fraud charge against Boeing.

In a 2021 settlement it admitted misleading air safety regulators about the Max but was protected from prosecution after it promised to improve safety procedures.

After a door panel blew out of a 737 Max in January, leaving a gaping hole in the passenger cabin, the Justice Department opened a probe into Boeing.

Prosecutors decided that the 2021 settlement had been broken by the firm.

During a hearing of the Homeland Security investigations subcommittee on Tuesday, Senator Richard Blumenthal said there is "mounting evidence" that

Boeing should now be prosecuted.

The US firm had insisted it had met its obligations under the 2021 deal.

Outgoing CEO David Calhoun defended Boeing's safety record. He acknowledged it had made mistakes but said it had "learned" from the past.

He admitted Boeing had retaliated against whistleblowers but insisted he had "listened" to those employees.

chris.buckin@mirror.co.uk
X@DailyMirror



189 KILLED

Lion Air jet plunged into the sea



DENIAL Nurse Lucy Letby
Letby jurors told tots can unplug tubes

BY KIM PILLING

SOME babies can dislodge their breathing tubes, a nurse has told nurse Lucy Letby's trial.

The 34-year-old is accused of displacing a two-hour-old's tube when her nurse left the unit at Countess of Chester Hospital.

Dr Ravi Jayaram is said to have caught Letby "virtually red-handed" as he entered the room at 2.12am on February 17 2016 and saw Child K's blood oxygen dipping.

A witness told Ben Myers KC, defending Letby, some babies can dislodge tubes. Child K died days later and it is not alleged Letby caused her death.

Letby, of Hereford, denies attempted murder.

She was convicted last year of murdering seven babies. The Manchester crown court trial continues.



APPETITE Jill Halfpenny
Soap star Jill: Grief led to sex thoughts

BY TOM BRYANT
Showbiz Editor

ACTOR Jill Halfpenny says she felt like a "lunatic" for having sex on her mind constantly after the sudden death of her partner.

The Strictly winner and soap star was heartbroken when Matt Janes died suddenly in January 2017.

The 48-year-old told the Mid Point podcast: "It was quite shocking to me. After Matt died, I had this obsession almost, this voracious appetite to have sex."

"I was like, what a terrible person, what an awful person I am."

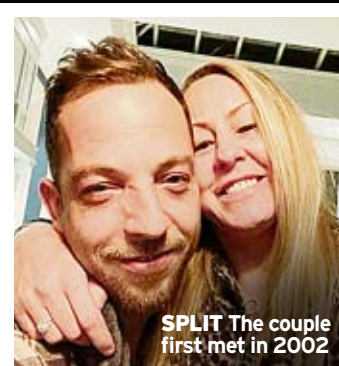
"And then when I went online, I saw hundreds of women going 'yep, absolutely felt the same way'."

"Thankfully for me, I didn't act upon it. And then I went the other way and I was like, not interested, not even a glimmer."

SINGER FOUND EX-PARTNER'S BODY AT HOME

Friend alerted James Morrison to note on her door

TOGETHER
James and
Gill in 2012



SPLIT The couple first met in 2002

BY ROD MINCHIN
and MARK JEFFERIES

SINGER James Morrison's ex-partner took her own life after mental health difficulties, an inquest has heard.

The You Give Me Something star found Gill Catchpole, 45, dead at her home on January 5.

A friend had found a handwritten note on A4 paper attached to the front door saying: "Don't come in, call the police".

The friend had gone to the adjacent property where the 39-year-old musician lived and he made the tragic discovery.

Ms Catchpole, who had two daughters with the singer, was pronounced dead at the scene, in Whitminster, Glos.

Detective Sergeant David Kania told the inquest in a statement: "Upon entering the living room, I saw a series of handwritten notes on the lounge table addressed to the deceased's ex-partner, family and friends."

"There were no signs of a disturbance or third-party involvement. It has been relayed to me that close friends and family had indicated Gill had been suffering with her mental health since the split from her ex-partner. It is likely this had a further negative detrimental impact on her mental health."

Gloucestershire coroner's court heard she suffered from kidney disease and had a transplant. In a statement, GP Dr Emma Basker said Ms Catchpole suffered from "reoccurring mental ill health".

Gloucestershire area coroner Roland Wooderson said: "It is quite clear, sadly, at the relevant time Gill was in a difficult place mentally."

It seems to me, sadly, on the balance of probabilities I will record a conclusion of suicide."

The couple got together in 2002 after meeting when Ms Catchpole moved into the pop star's mother's home as a lodger.

Mr Morrison has had two No1 albums and won the BRIT for Best British Male in 2007.

■ The Samaritans are available 24/7. Contact them for free on 116 123, email jo@samaritans.org

mirrornews@mirror.co.uk
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LOSS Singer performs days before tragedy

“It is quite clear, sadly, at the relevant time Gill was in a difficult place mentally”

CORONER ROLAND WOODERSON
SPEAKING AT INQUEST YESTERDAY

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30 DAILY MIRROR FRIDAY 21.06.2024

HOLLYWOOD GENT

CLASS With Brenda Blethyn in *Pride & Prejudice*, in 2005

CHARMING Known for his wit as much as his talent

BY CHRISTOPHER BUCKTIN
US Editor

Those drooping blue eyes, the grin that could go from playful to menacing in a flicker, and that silky baritone voice made him a Hollywood great.

Donald Sutherland, one of the most loved and respected actors, leaves behind a legacy of nearly 200 films and TV shows following his death yesterday aged 88.

He passed away in Miami, Florida, after a short illness.

Long considered among the best actors never to have been nominated for an Academy Award, Sutherland loved to work and enjoyed a career that spanned six decades.

Son Kiefer Sutherland broke the news in an online post.

The 24 star said: "With a heavy heart, I tell you that my father has passed away.

"I personally think one of the most important actors in the history of film.

"Never daunted by a role, good, bad or ugly. "He loved what he did and did what he loved, one can never ask for more than that. A life well lived."

Sutherland worked regularly up until his death. "I love to work. I passionately love to work," he declared in 1998.

"I love to feel my hand fit into the glove of some other character. I feel a huge freedom – time stops for me."

His range was as tall as his 6ft 4in frame, equally comfortable playing a zany oddball, an icy tyrant or a bereaved father.

"I'm not as crazy as I used to be, but I'm still a little crazy," he said.

Sutherland recalled that while growing up in eastern Canada, he once asked his mother if he was good-looking, only to be told: "No, but your face has a lot of character."

He recounted how he was rejected for a role by a producer saying: "This part calls for a guy-next-door type. You don't look like you've lived next door to anyone."

Born in Saint John, a fishing village in New Brunswick, he was one of four children to his mathematician mother Dorothy and his salesman father Frederick.

He survived a series of childhood diseases, including infantile paralysis, rheumatoid fever and spinal meningitis before attending Victoria University, an affiliated college of the University of Toronto, where he studied engineering but switched to drama.

His love of acting began in a Nova Scotia picture house but his film aspirations seemed too lofty, so he tried his luck in theatre instead.

"It's not that theatre was my first love. My first love was just to be an actor," he later explained.

"I was kind of dumb and cowish, and I didn't think movies were something I could ever be part of. I don't know why I presumed that the theatre would be. It was more

NEW FANS In *Hunger* Games franchise

“One of the most intelligent, engrossing film actors of all time”

RON HOWARD DIRECTOR PAYS TRIBUTE TO ACTOR

FAMILY MAN With his young son Kiefer

DONALD SUTHERLAND, 1935-2024

He loved what he did and did what he loved, and one can never ask for more than that... a life well lived



ACCLAIMED Starring with Jane Fonda in *Kluge*, 1971

“My career has been all downhill since the age of eleven

DONALD SUTHERLAND
HUMBLE WITH HIS TALENT

ROCK IN ROLES
Having fun in *Animal House*, 1978



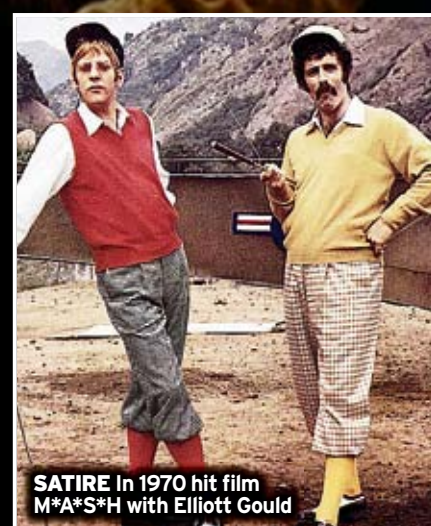
SHARED PASSION Kiefer as adult with his father



HAUNTING In Venice for film *Don't Look Now*, 1973



FAME BECKONS As Sergeant Oddball in *Kelly's Heroes*, 1970



SATIRE In 1970 hit film *M*A*S*H* with Elliott Gould

know my name,” Sutherland said. His breakthrough came in 1970 with Robert Altman’s satirical war film, *M*A*S*H*, where he portrayed sceptic surgeon Captain “Hawkeye” Pierce.

Sutherland identified with its anti-war message. Outspoken against the Vietnam War, he founded Free Theatre Associates with Jane Fonda in 1971.

After then playing neurotic platoon commander Oddball in *Kelly's Heroes*, the roles catapulted him to fame.

Sutherland put in a powerhouse performance as a detective in *Kluge* in 1971 opposite Fonda’s call girl. Two

years later, in *Don't Look Now*, the actor delivered a haunting performance that remains one of the most critically acclaimed of his career.

His portrayal of the enigmatic John Baxter in the supernatural thriller is cited as a masterclass in acting.

From the dystopian sci-fi classic *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* in 1978 to his authoritarian fascist in 1900 and his comedic turn in *Animal House*, also in 1978, he defied typecasting.

Other memorable roles in major films include playing a grieving father in Robert Redford’s *Ordinary People*

in 1981 and a crucial mystery man in Oliver Stone’s *JFK* in 1992.

More lately, his role as ruthless President Snow in *The Hunger Games* introduced him to younger fans.

He was bestowed with an honorary Oscar in 2017. He also had an Emmy and two Golden Globes. But the dearth of accolades didn’t trouble him.

Sutherland recalled: “My career has been all downhill since the age of 11. I did my first play, *The Male Animal*, at Toronto University’s Hart House

Theatre. The audience laughed and applauded when I came on, they applauded when I went off, and they applauded when I came on again. I’ve never had it as good since.”

Among the tributes that poured in, director Ron Howard said: “One of the most intelligent, interesting and engrossing film actors of all time.”

*M*A*S*H* co-star Elliott Gould said: “It’s never easy losing the calibre of a human being and actor like Donald but this one really profoundly hurts.”

Beyond his acting, Sutherland was devoted to his family. He tied the knot

with Lois Hardwick in 1959 before marrying Shirley Douglas in 1966 and having twins Rachel and Kiefer.

Sutherland then married Francine Racette in 1972, and they had three sons, Roeg, Rossif and Angus.

He was also an advocate for causes such as environmental conservation, human rights and healthcare reform.

Despite his star status, Sutherland remained a man known for his humility, warmth and wit as much as that prodigious, effortless talent.

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ARRESTING Pixie in Breakfast at Tiffany's



Being in the broke me..

EXCLUSIVE
BY LAURA ARMSTRONG

Pixie Lott has revealed her West End debut left her feeling a complete mess, struggling to function and suffering panic attacks.

The pop favourite, 33, who became a household name at 18 thanks to 2009 debut *Turn It Up*, starred as Holly Golightly in *Breakfast at Tiffany's* in 2016.

But after almost a year of eight performances a week, she says the experience of portraying her character's descent into chaos nearly broke her.

Pixie has now poured the painful emotions she went through into a track on her fourth studio album, *Encino* – confessing that writing and recording the song was like a therapy session.

She said: "I had a really hard time after *Breakfast at Tiffany's*.

"I was crying my eyes out every night. It wasn't good for my brain. It felt like it changed the makeup of my brain.

"So by the time it ended I was a completely broken person – just a complete mess.

"I didn't know what was going on, I couldn't even function.

"It was the weirdest thing. Everything was scary, everything was confusing, I had no grounding. My breathing was tight every day.

"Like panic attacks, which was

really scary. And I was navigating life thinking, 'This is the new normal now' – not knowing what this was and just trying to put one foot in front of the other.

"I don't know exactly how long I was at the crux of that, feeling really bad. But I know it took a couple of years to get myself back again."

Pixie, born Victoria Louise Lott in Bromley, South London, said she only began to improve when she discovered meditation after searching online for a way to escape how she was feeling.

And it was only then that she fully opened up to her partner of 14 years, Oliver Cheshire, and her friends and family.

She went on: "I definitely spoke to them about it but not in depth. I don't think I properly spoke about it until after it.

"So at the time, they wouldn't have known. Back then, I felt like I didn't know what it was. Looking back now, it was really bad. But meditation really turned things around, that was the answer.

"I found it when I was Googling out to get myself out of this. And obviously it's not a 'one session and you're done' thing.

But if you do a every day you w it makes everyth was a massive tr period in my life album because t album is authent

"There's a song Say So, which w hardest to write about that time.

"But I couldn these things about t really all

u n c e b tr S o Daug released

She said: Daughter came fi tion about negat

"Over the years characters that I mean, and I've so stuff written abou stuff that I woul to repeat.

"I have learned but sometimes y and are like, 'Wh

"People woul my appearance think I'm so good

"Recently,



HAPPY Pixie with husband Oliver

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CHANNELING HER PAIN INTO MUSIC

HOLLY SPIRIT With Mag,
played by Naomi Cranston



“

I cried
my eyes
out every
night. It
wasn't
good for
my brain

PIXIE LOTT ON
HER TIME AFTER
BREAKFAST
AT TIFFANY'S

the West End it was scary

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y good to get it
out.”

Pixie has also
used her new
music to
channel her
experiences of
bullying and
rolling on single
m e b o d y's
hter, which was
yesterday.

“Somebody's
rom a conversa-
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s, I've met some
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didn't even want

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you can't help it
at am I doing?'.
d comment on
, or say that I
d.

s o m e o n e

commented, 'Oh, you used to be
fit'. That's the silly stuff. But I
have had bad stuff over the years.

“And I wanted this song to be
a reminder that we're all human,
and we are all trying our best. I
think that can get forgotten.”

Pixie began writing her album
– her first since a self-titled set in
2014 – five years ago.

Since then, she has married
fashion model Oliver, 36, in Ely
Cathedral in Cambridgeshire in
2022 and welcomed their son
Albert, nine months.

She is now managing to
juggle motherhood and
work with the help of her
parents, Beverley and
Stephen, who have gone on the
road with her.

And she admitted she is very
much in favour of having more
children in future.

Pixie went on: “Timing is such
a strange thing.

“This album, the wedding, a
house, having Bertie – I've
wanted all of these things for
ages and I've had to be so
patient. But for some reason,
everything has happened at the
same time.

“And thankfully, it's all been
worth the wait in the end.

“Our wedding was the second
best day of my life, and having
Bertie was the best.

“I was really lucky to have a
lovely long time off after he was
born. But now we're into release

mode, and I'm
excited to share this
experience with him.
Luckily, I can bring
him with me,
because my mum
and dad can help me
out. I wouldn't be
able to do it if they
weren't able to help
me, so I am lucky.”

She added: “I did
always want a big
family, because our
family is so close and
Olly is a really family
person as well.

“I want to have all
the babies and he
loves being a dad.

“He's a great dad –
he absolutely loves it.

“I do feel like since
I've had Bertie I have
wanted to work
harder too, because
when you have kids
you want to give them
the best you can.

“I do think some-
times that it shouldn't
have taken me so long to
make an album like this.

“But life can be weird and
crazy and maybe I needed to
learn those lessons to be in the
right place.

“Now I'm on a roll, and I defi-
nitely don't want it to be another
10 years before my next album.”

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**BACK TO
WORK**
Pixie Lott is
releasing her
first album
in 10 years



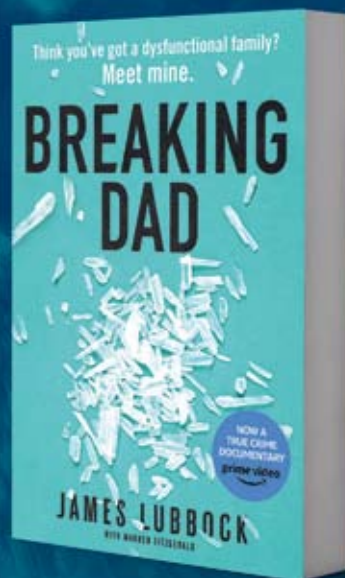
Pixie's single *Somebody's
Daughter* is out now. Her album
Encino is out on September 27

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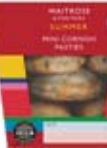
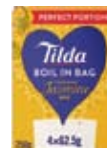
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Your festival get-set list

Festival season properly kicks in next week, with all the action at Glastonbury. And whether you're heading to Worthy Farm itself, camping in the back garden, or heading to another festival this summer, you'll need some kit.

But there's no need to break the bank – here are 15 deals to get your summer of fun and music (complete with rain!) under way.

**All prices correct at time of going to press*

CAMPING



Backpacker Lightweight 2-Man Tent, Mountain Warehouse, was £109.99, now £64.99
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Quechua Folding Camping Chair, Decathlon, was £12.99, now £8.99
SAVE: £4

Berghaus Transition 300 Sleeping Bag, Go Outdoors, £78, Members Price £38
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Adjustable Head Torch, Regatta, was £40, now £27.95
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CATERING



Stainless Steel Cutlery Set, Mountain Warehouse, was £9.99, now £5.99
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2L Whistling Kettle, Decathlon, was £18, now £13
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Koolatron 25L Ultra Cool Box, The Range, was £54.81, now £49.99
SAVE: £4.82



2 Person Aluminium Cooking Set, Regatta, was £30, now £8.95
SAVE: £21.05

Camp Bistro Elite Cooking Stove, Go Outdoors, £40, Members Price £20
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STAYING DRY

Unisex Expert Kiwi Ranger Hat, Craghoppers, was £40, now £20
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Women's Waterproof Overtrousers, Decathlon, was £19.99, now £17.99
SAVE: £2



Orla Kiely Festival Poncho, Regatta, was £90, now £44.95
SAVE: £45.05



Dunlop Pricemaster Wellingtons, Go Outdoors, £20, Members Price £18
SAVE: £2



Pakka II Kids Waterproof Jacket, Mountain Warehouse, was £22.99, now £14.99
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What's new

For something a little bit different and interesting this summer, Sainsbury's is stocking the new Dr Funk range of delicious sparkling waters packed with vitamins and no sugar. Great if you fancy a bit of fizz, but don't want the sugar intake. They're refreshing on their own or as mixers. Choose between Mango & Violet or Lemon & Elderflower (4x330ml for £4).



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SPEND Utility Folding Trolley, £60, Wickes



SPLURGE Outsunny 90L Folding Trolley, £69.99, Amazon

Grab it

As the summer of sport begins, Co-op has launched a £5 pizza and drink supersaver for members who can save up to £4.10. Non-members pay £6. Running until July 19, choose two of three flavours of sharing-size pizzas – Stonebaked Margherita (320g), Stonebaked Meat Feast (356g) or Stonebaked Texan BBQ Chicken (355g) – plus a drink choice of either Budweiser Bottles (4x300ml), Coca-Cola Diet (4x330ml) or Coca Cola Zero Sugar (4x330ml).



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Asda has launched a new Chip Shop Curry Mayo (£1.10, 270g) as part of its range of summer-ready condiments. Inspired by the chippy tea favourite, curry sauce on chips, Asda's latest innovation is a creamy mayo packed with a blend of warming spices. Perfect for dipping and drizzling over chips. Chip Shop Curry Mayo joins other new condiments launching at Asda, such as Peri Peri Marinade and Ranch Dressing.





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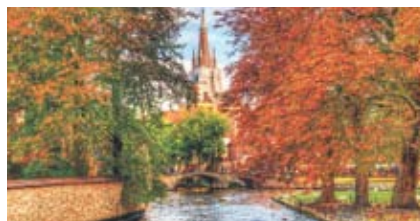
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DR MIRIAM STOPPARD



Opening up our eyes to the perks of personalised diets

New daily pill for sickle cell disease

In sickle cell disease, most common in people of African or Caribbean descent, red blood cells become hard, sticky and crescent-shaped.

Some die off, leading to anaemia, and some clump together, causing clots. A new "life-changing" treatment for SCD will be available on the NHS, and about a quarter of the 17,000 people in the UK with the condition could benefit from this once-a-day pill.

SCD "crises" cause crippling pain, and increase the risk of stroke and sight loss. Treatments include blood transfusions to prevent anaemia and lower the risk of complications. The new drug, voxelotor, works by boosting oxygen in red blood cells, which prevents the cells from becoming deformed.

Patients who have taken voxelotor have reported "remarkable improvements in quality of life, including reduced pain and increased energy levels, enabling them to reclaim aspects of life previously thought unattainable", said a spokesman for the Sickle Cell Society.

Personalised diets can influence several key aspects of health, including lowering your weight, cholesterol and heart disease risk, as well as improving your mood, metabolism and gut health. And this is kind of what you'd expect.

But does it mean that general government advice is wrong?

Not exactly, but improvements for people following personalised guidance were greater in some areas than for those following current government guidelines.

Trouble is, people often don't follow generalised health advice.

Numerous chronic diseases can be linked back to our diets, including stroke risk, heart disease and some cancers. New research suggests changing our diet can make us healthier and reduce the risk of chronic disease.

There's also wide variation in how people's bodies respond to food, even between identical twins.

Despite this, little research has been done into the effectiveness of personalised dietary approaches.

So would a personalised diet plan, tailored to an individual's biology, lifestyle and health history, have a



Think about food in a different way, emphasising your gut health

diet plans were also twice as likely to report improved mood, twice as likely to feel less hungry and over four times more likely to report better sleep quality and energy levels compared with the control group.

"It is clear some current population advice isn't working as well as it could, with many people struggling to stick to it. ZOE advice shows that thinking about foods in a totally different way with the emphasis on quality, personalisation

and gut health can have massive benefits if adopted more widely," says Prof Spector, from King's School of Life Course and Population Sciences.

"Personalised approaches can improve both how well people follow advice, as well as the efficacy of the advice. Targeting multiple features of personalisation is key to success, including people's biology, lifestyles, barriers and preferences," says Dr Sarah Berry, Department of Nutritional Sciences and Chief Scientist of ZOE.

The concept of personalised nutrition is fascinating and I'll be following it up.

greater impact than generic nutrition advice such as avoiding red meat?

For the research, personalised diet programmes were created by ZOE, a science and nutrition company co-founded by King's College London professor Tim Spector – for whom I have a lot of time – which aims to help people improve their health with personalised advice.

Some 347 Americans took part in

the study, with researchers comparing the effects of following an 18-week personalised programme to generic US government-issued nutrition advice.

While both groups improved their health overall, people on a personalised diet plan lost more weight than the control group and lowered their triglyceride (fat) levels more – decreasing their risk of heart disease.

Participants following personalised

Ask Dr Miriam

Q In the family we say that my grandson is "double jointed" because he can bend his joints much further than we can and his skin stretches more than ours does. But he's started to bruise easily. Should we take him to the doctor?

A Yes, you absolutely should. Being double jointed is a feature of a condition called Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (EDS) and for his own welfare he probably should be seen by a specialist. EDS is one of a group of inherited conditions where the

collagen in the body is defective and it can affect many organs. Collagen is the basic architecture of the body and all our major organs so EDS can give rise to bruising, poor wound healing, stretchy skin, excessive joint mobility and fragility of collagen in internal organs and blood vessels. I think your grandson should definitely see a specialist because of the bruising. If he begins to have pain, it might help if he saw a pain specialist at a dedicated pain clinic.



WHAT IS IT? MUM GUILT

Mum guilt isn't new. When my boys were small I carried a rucksack of guilt I never put down. And, yes, I had the feeling I wasn't doing enough as a parent. Some common triggers include going back to work after maternity or paternity leave, juggling household tasks with parenting responsibilities and dealing with unwanted opinions about your parenting choices.

And in trying to balance your role as a parent with their own needs, who doesn't feel guilty for prioritising self-care or spending time away from their children?

How to cope? Don't sweat the small stuff and lose sight of the big picture: your lovely family.

It doesn't matter if you don't clean up. Don't let guilt go unchecked.



GOOD(ISH) NEWS

Slow progress on cancer referral targets

We continually miss targets on cancer care and the latest stats aren't cause for much rejoicing.

The NHS target for cancer referral is 62 days. In March, 31% of patients waited longer than 62 days – the best figure since April 2022 but still way off the 15% target.

Separately, the overall waiting list to start elective care seems to have stagnated.

And in April, 26% of people attending A&E spent more than four hours from arrival to admission, transfer, or discharge.

It's a slight improvement from the same month last year but still above the 24% March 2024 target.

DID YOU KNOW: Antipsychotics can be harmful

Though powerful antipsychotics are linked to an increased risk of stroke and early death they're still being given to tens of thousands of dementia patients.

Prescriptions in care homes rose 50% during the pandemic. Now, the largest study of its kind has suggested the drugs are more dangerous than previously

thought. By comparing the records of 35,339 dementia patients taking antipsychotics with those of 173,910 patients who were not, researchers found those prescribed the drugs were twice as likely to develop pneumonia, 61% more likely to have a stroke, and at a 28% greater risk of heart attack. A BMJ report

says the drugs were also linked to a heightened risk of broken bones, kidney injury and venous thromboembolism.

Although the study didn't prove a causative link, researchers say findings suggest that a "move away from the overprescription of antipsychotics is overdue".



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PET CLUB

With the People's Pet Awards



Dog saved after fire by mouth-to-mouth

A hero firefighter saved a dog's life - by giving him mouth-to-mouth. Lewis Keeble dragged lifeless Alsatian Kiko from a burning flat, then blew into his mouth to bring him round.

Lewis was part of a crew that was called out to the blaze on the fourth floor of a 14-storey block in Dalston, East London, last Tuesday.

They were told there had been a knocking sound and a person may have been trapped inside.

Lewis said: "We forced open the door and saw it



LUCKY Kiko was saved by firefighter Lewis

was actually a dog that was trying to escape. By now Kiko was really limp because of the amount of smoke that he had inhaled.

"I reached out and dragged him out of the flat and across the building to a balcony.

"It didn't look like the dog was breathing properly, so I cupped my hands around Kiko's mouth and began blowing directly into his mouth.

"After a few minutes, he thankfully came round. He even appeared to be back to normal and he was later left safely in the care of his owner."

PET PICS

A paralysed puppy can walk again after his spine was fixed with 3D-printed screws.

Arthur, a six-month-old cockapoo, was unable to move after his limbs suddenly became weak and he collapsed.

Owner Natalie Jones rushed him to the vet in Chester where MRI scans and X-rays revealed a section of his spine was not connected properly, which was compressing his spinal cord.

He then underwent a four-hour operation where surgeons used bespoke 3D-printed screws to repair his spine.

Now three months after the surgery, Arthur is able to walk again.

Natalie said: "It's been a long road but over the last week, he's starting to play and become himself. It's the best feeling to watch him being a puppy again."



LINDA SAVED TO LAY A GIANT EGG

Talk about egg-tra large. Mum Steph Carr was stunned when one of her rescue hens laid this giant egg, below, which was double the usual size.

Steph, 30, had taken Linda in to save her from slaughter after she was deemed surplus to requirements at a nearby farm.

When the two-year-old bird appeared sluggish, and had failed to lay for more than a week, Steph was worried something was wrong.

But when she inspected her coop in Settle, North Yorkshire, earlier this month, she realised what had been ailing Linda.

She said: "I was like, 'What is that?' It was huge. Honestly, I've never seen anything like it. I was quite worried about the chicken, but she seemed a lot happier, to be honest. You would be if you needed to lay an egg that big."

The double yolker weighed 109g, compared to around 50g for a supermarket egg. Steph added: "We kept it until all the family were in. We had a massive omelette with it - the yolks were really big."



Soldiers showed their softer side when they stopped a training exercise so this stricken baby owl could be rescued.

Anne Brummer, from the Save Me Trust, the wildlife charity she set up with Queen's Brian May, posted this week: "Private Murphy was rescued from a military location in Aldershot during manoeuvres. We found him surrounded by an armed guard when we went to rescue him. The officer in charge was very relieved to see us as he had seen all activities stop until tiny Murphy was safe. Well done boys for caring for us all, irrelevant of species."



DEAR COLEEN

dearcoleen@mirror.co.uk



Only just married... and he's admitted to an affair

Dear Coleen

I got married last summer and we had a huge wedding with all the bells and whistles, but the celebrations didn't last long.

About a month after we got back from the honeymoon, my new husband confessed he'd been having an affair for two-and-a-half years.

He explained he'd ended it just before the wedding, but that he'd been having a hard time coping with the guilt since. He begged for forgiveness and a fresh start but I was devastated.

The past few months have been hell, as we've tried to work through it. He moved out to stay with a friend and I stayed in our flat. We've been meeting up regularly to talk, but I'm finding I just can't move on.

I'm still so angry, not to mention ashamed and embarrassed, too, after making such a big deal of our wedding. It all feels like a lie and that I don't even know this person I

married. He didn't want me to tell my family and friends, but I had to because I couldn't cope on my own.

Needless to say, they are furious with him and their advice is to dump him.

He knows he's really messed things up and I do believe he loves me, but the trust has been broken and I don't know if I could ever trust him again.

I'd love your opinion.

Coleen says

You can't expect to move on from this quickly. It's going to take time, a lot of talking and possibly relationship counselling if you both want to save the marriage.

It's a crisis point, and I think it's important that he's completely honest about why he had the affair. It'll be hard to hear, but it's essential in order to get past it.

However, he can't think that

now he's told you and unburdened himself of this big secret he's been keeping that you can just go back to how things were.

The truth is, things will probably never be the same, but that doesn't mean you can't move on and have a good marriage.

I do think relationship therapy is the way to go, especially for you, and at the end of it you might decide to go your separate ways, but at least you will be supported through making those decisions.

Lastly, your family and friends won't give two hoots about the wedding, all they will care about is you.

You have no reason to feel any shame or embarrassment - this whole mess is on him. He's the one who needs to acknowledge what he did and to try to repair those relationships. Good luck.

"I'm still so angry, ashamed and embarrassed"

COLEEN'S WORDS OF WISDOM

If you're feeling low today, remember you're in charge of how you feel in this moment. If you're overthinking, ask yourself: what will make me feel happier or a little more confident right now? Maybe it's taking a walk in the sunshine or calling a friend who lifts your spirits.

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FINANCE

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NatWest shops at Sainsbury's DEAL SECURES STORE'S BANK DIVISION

NATWEST has struck a deal to buy most of Sainsbury's Bank.

The swoop will see NatWest take on about £1.4billion of unsecured personal loans, £1.1bn of credit card balances, and about £2.6bn of customer deposits.

As a result, NatWest expects to acquire around one million customer accounts.

Sainsbury's announced in January that it was winding down its banking division to focus on its retail business, nearly 27 years after it launched.

In February, Barclays agreed a £600million deal to buy most of Tesco Bank. Both stores were among retailers that made a push into financial services in the 1990s, initially through tie-ups with long established banks.

The NatWest sale is expected to complete in the first half of next year. Sainsbury's said there

Sainsbury's Bank

would be no immediate changes to its banking customers' terms and conditions, adding they

"do not need to take any action".

The sale does not include the Sainsbury's Banks' commission income businesses, such as insurance, cash points and travel money.

Simon Roberts, Sainsbury's boss, said: "Today's news means we will focus all our time and resources going forward on growing our core retail business."

Paul Thwaite, NatWest Group chief executive, said it had "a strong track record of successful integration, and we are focused on ensuring a smooth transition for customers".

William Woods, analyst at Bernstein, said: "We believe this is a good outcome for Sainsbury's after a long sale period where it struggled to find a buyer."



FOCUSED
NatWest's
Thwaite

SHARES DIVE AT YUGOV

Shares in polling giant YouGov crashed more than 46% yesterday after it issued a profit warning.

The company, founded by former Tory chancellor Nadhim Zahawi, said it has seen "lower sales bookings than anticipated" since releasing its half-year figures.

As a result, it now expects profits for the year to the end of July to be between £41million and £44m, down from £48.3m in 2023.

The tough trading comes despite pollsters being kept busy during the general election.

People are feeling a bit more upbeat despite the cost-of-living crisis still battering household budgets, according to research out today. Consumer confidence has increased for the third month running, number-crunchers GfK found, ticking up three points in June. But the index still remains firmly in negative territory, at minus 14.

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BAE Systems.....	1346.5	-4.0	Kingfisher.....	231.3	+3.8	Unilever.....	4433.0	0.0
B&M European.....	477.1	+6.1	Land Securities.....	56.1	+0.9	United Utilities.....	993.4	-16.6
BAT.....	2460.0	+20.0	Legal & General.....	303.3	+0.7	Vodafone.....	72.3	+0.6
Balfour Beatty.....	362.4	+6.0	Lloyds.....	905.0	+4.0	Whitbread.....	2956.0	+16.0
Barclays.....	208.1	+1.4	NatWest Group.....	320.5	+8.0	Reach PLC.....	93.0	+3.0
BR Land Co.....	416.6	-7.6	Next.....	9102.0	+98.0			
BP.....	470.5	+4.1	Ocado.....	310.0	-42.5			
BT.....	142.6	+1.3	Pearson.....	968.2	+3.2			
Capita Group.....	14.3	0.0	Persimmon.....	1363.0	-2.0			
Carnival.....	1130.0	+20.5	Prudential.....	712.4	+11.8			
Centrica.....	136.0	+1.6	Reckitt.....	4442.0	+45.0			
Compass.....	2238.0	+12.0	RELX.....	3608.0	+21.0			
Currys Plc.....	78.2	+0.5	Rentokil Initial.....	454.1	+3.8			
Diageo.....	2590.5	+21.5	Rio Tinto.....	5271.0	+35.0			
Direct Line.....	202.4	+3.6	Rolls-Royce.....	485.5	+13.0			
Easyjet.....	451.1	-4.0	J Sainsbury.....	265.0	+5.4			
Ferguson.....	15580.0	-235.0	SSE.....	1840.0	+34.5			
Fraser's Group.....	871.5	+9.0	Severn Trent.....	2441.0	+34.0			
GlaxoSmithKline.....	1618.0	+1.5	Serco.....	172.2	+1.9			
Halfords.....	140.4	+0.6						
Hays.....	100.7	-0.9						
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YOUR **DAILY Mirror** COMMUNITY CORNER

Let's do this together

Edited by **SIOBHAN McNALLY**

It was already 8pm on Wednesday night when I caught The Dark Lord sniffing around the printer in my office.

I recognised that look on her face from when she was aged eight and would pull a crumpled letter home out of her school bag and tell me she needed a mini replica of Hampton Court Palace by first thing tomorrow morning.

You get used to the 11th-hour saves when you're a parent. I've made last-minute World Book Day costumes out of empty loo rolls and Weetabix boxes. I've torn up clothes and made golden tickets, dyed white sheets black for Harry Potter cloaks and made Santa beards from cotton wool.

When we'd completely run out of time I once suggested TDL go as Stig of the Dump when she was going through her refusing to wash stage.

Or the time I tried to convince her to wear a big pair of Y fronts over her school trousers to go as Captain Underpants, which I recognise now is cruelty to children.

I've knocked up plenty of late-night unicorn cupcakes for school cake sale day, making sure they were all nut-free. However, I'm not entirely sure the glitter sprinkles were always edible and might just have come from a sewing kit.

But surely when your forgetful child is now aged 15 and 5ft 10, there should be no more last-minute surprises?

"Do we have an A3 printer?" she asked in a worried voice, holding her GCSE art portfolio in her hand.

"No, you know it's always been A4. You've used up enough of my precious printer ink to know that," I said tetchily.

"It's just that I've remembered I need an A3 print-out of my Galway beach photo for my five-hour art mock exam at 8.55am tomorrow."

I swore briefly then checked the timings of the printer shop in town.

"It doesn't open until 8.45am - we won't make it in time."

"What am I going to do?" she said, starting to panic.

Which is why I found myself printing out sections of TDL's picture and taping them together to make an A3 jigsaw puzzle. She looked relieved, but added: "I'll never get away with it."

"Yeah you will," I said confidently. "Tell them you are going through your abstract Mondrian period."

■ Email siobhan.mcnelly@mirror.co.uk or write to Community Corner, PO Box 791, Winchester SO23 3RP.

➡ Please note, if you send us photos of your grandchildren, we'll also need permission of one of their parents to print them... Thanks!

Yours, Siobhan

When I complained to Amazon about a missing parcel they asked me to send photographic evidence.



MY BEAUTIFUL BACKYARD



June's sunshine has finally arrived and after all that rain, Amara Hughes' cottage-style garden is overflowing with an abundance of colour and fragrance from her pale pink and white roses, jasmine and trailing clematis.

The 62-year-old in Liverpool says: "I've loved gardening all my life. Although I struggle with my joints now."

Pink and white snapdragons vie for space among the pink foxgloves and purple fairy campanulas, while clusters of lobelia and million bells trail from hanging baskets.

More importantly, soft fruits, including strawberries, are beginning to ripen, as Amara's garden prepares to feed the wildlife.



"I like to make sure my garden is wildlife-friendly," she says.

"My pear tree will bear fruit, but already a hungry squirrel and wood pigeon have

devoured most of the plums and cherries.

"A blackbird has also been stealing blueberries but we've had two successful broods of baby blackbirds already nested, and another on the way."

It's still early in the season, and there's more to come.

Amara adds: "The hydrangeas are just coming into flower now, and later this summer, my lilies and dahlias will bloom."

■ Send your garden snaps to siobhan.mcnelly@mirror.co.uk



Having written this ethereal story with a sting in the tail a few years ago, Rob King in Crondall, Hants, left it undisturbed and yellowing among other documents he planned to bin. Today, A New Life finally sees the light of day...

READER'S SHORT story

The day was not long awake. The sunlight on the dew cast myriad spangles of light across the lawn with the brilliance of innumerable diamonds. She went out quietly through the French doors into the garden. A blackbird called brightly through the still, early morning air.

Midges danced their erratic ballet, avoiding spiders' webs strung between the branches of various plants. It was going to be a beautiful summer's day.

She moved quickly over the damp grass to the end of the garden and looked across the fields to the tiny Norman church nestled in the distance, its stonework glowing in the sunshine.

Later, all her family and friends would follow her there for the ceremony, along the winding country path with its sweet-smelling hedgerows, on this, her special day.

She ran her hand over her crisp white dress, adorned with lace and embroidery. It was beautiful but perhaps she would have preferred a slightly different design.

No matter, the final choice had been made quite hurriedly as things turned out and she was content enough. She glanced back at the

house, adored since her childhood and so full of happy memories.

She noticed the roses in the border that her father tended lovingly and knew that some would be cut especially for the service. She smiled to herself at the thought and then again as she

brushed past the swing on the gnarled oak tree, which had borne her weight and that of her siblings as each, in turn, had played on it growing up. In truth, she didn't really want to leave home but today would be the start of a new life elsewhere.

She glimpsed movement inside the house and, reluctantly, started back across the lawn. This stolen moment of indulgence had only been brief and now it was time to prepare for the proceedings ahead.

Past the dovecote which had fascinated her as a young girl, when the birds popped their heads out of its openings like some kind of oversized, multiple cuckoo clock. Over the gravel, which had always crunched satisfyingly underfoot and reminded her of being on a pebbly beach somewhere.

She slipped, unseen, through the doors into the living room and paused momentarily, looking down at the sombre faces of her loved ones as they gathered round her simple white coffin on its stand.

A new life indeed beckoned.

■ Send your 500-word fact or fiction stories to siobhan.mcnelly@mirror.co.uk



MY PET PEEVES

Artificial intelligence is already taking all our calls but Anthony Hornby just wants to speak to a human.

The reader from Birkenhead, Merseyside, storms: "What gets my goat are robots on the other end of the phone when you call most businesses and government offices now. Although my biggest pet hate is drivers who still use their mobile phones while driving. Their licences should be taken off them."

We get a few letters about traffic light violators but Mick Sutterby describes exactly what he hates.

"People who walk up to a traffic light-controlled road crossing, press the button, THEN look at the traffic, the road being clear, they cross. By the time the traffic lights turn red, they are 50 metres away and cars are being held for no reason."

The reader from Hatfield, Herts, is also irked by lazy speech.

"People who say 'think' when they mean 'thing' as in, 'It's nothink to do with me!'"

■ What really gets your goat? Email siobhan.mcnelly@mirror.co.uk

THOUGHT OF THE DAY



If it weren't for the last minute, nothing would get done.

RITA MAE BROWN

Join in and be a part of our amazing community. Share your tips, pictures and hobbies, tell us the quote you live by, or nominate your hero of the day. Whatever is happening in your life and whatever you're talking or thinking about, we want to hear it. Email us at siobhan.mcnelly@mirror.co.uk, write to **Community Corner, PO Box 791, Winchester SO23 3RP**

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THEATRE



with NEIL NORMAN



DETECTIVES
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and Rebekah
Hinds star

**KATHY & STELLA SOLVE
A MURDER** ★★★★★

Ambassadors Theatre, London, until
September 14. Tickets: 03330 096 690

Characterful British musicals seem to be pouring out of the woodwork, and this one stomps on to the stage with its regional credentials intact. Two misfit girls – bespectacled bookworm Kathy (Bronte Barbe) and stropky Goth Stella (Rebekah Hinds) – run a true-crime podcast from a Hull basement, discussing local celebrity serial killer The Hull Decapitator.

Evading “real” employment, they pursue a dream of becoming broadcast superstars and are thrilled when star crime writer Felicia Taylor (Hannah-Jane Fox), author of books with titles such as *To Sir, With Blood*, comes to Hull for the annual Murder Con.

When Felicia is found murdered, the girls turn detective to discover the culprit.

Punctuated by raucous songs and gestural dancing, the show’s tatterdemalion antics are held together by the convincing friendship between two outsiders, particularly when it is threatened by their differing ambitions.

The outrageous performances – Fox and Imelda Warren-Green dine on the scenery with gusto – disguise heartfuls of humanity and a sharp social edge. Elliotte Williams-N’Dure’s frustrated detective is a gem. Great band, too. It’s a Hull of a show, my friends.

MISS JULIE ★★★★★

Park90 Theatre, London, until July 6
Tickets: 020 7870 6876

Another week, another version of Strindberg’s savage evisceration of sex, class and power. From Lidless Theatre – whose revival of Philip Ridley’s *Leaves of Glass* was outstanding – director Max Harrison goes back to basics.

The young cast play out Strindberg’s mystery dance with unnerving authenticity as recently disengaged aristocrat Miss Julie (Katie Eldred) flirts with her father’s manservant Jean (Freddie Wise) while cook Christine (Adeline Waby) looks on with dispassionate jealousy.

Flushed from dancing with the estate gamekeeper at a Midsummer Eve barn dance, Julie insists Jean join her in a waltz. Flattered but aware that he is being used,

Jean succumbs and the power dynamics switch back and forth as each character tries to establish dominance.

Directed with a purity of purpose and played with commitment down to the bone, this is heady stuff. Christine’s wordless scene as she busies herself in the kitchen while listening to the revelry is a silent aria of disappointment; Jean’s speech disassembling Julie’s escape fantasy is a model of articulate hysteria.

Julie herself is part femme fatale/part little girl lost, desperation staining her entitlement like blood on a sheet. Distilled down its essence, it is one of the best productions of this play I’ve seen in years.

**GIFFORDS CIRCUS:
AVALON** ★★★

Chiswick House, London, UK Tour until
September 29. Tickets: 01453 800200

Regular readers of this column will know



LEADS
Rescue
dog tricks

of my enduring love for Giffords Circus. While their latest show is wonderful in parts there is something missing. Maybe it’s the theme – Arthurian romance that never quite gels – or the absence of Tweedy (who has gone solo with his own show).

New clown Cuthbert (Tyler West) will undoubtedly become a favourite when he stops being too eager to please.

Director Cal McCrystal misses a few tricks and adds some unnecessary ones; the screen depicting the Lady of the Lake is poorly positioned and, while the miniature pony is cute, the theme begs for a horse dressed to joust.

On the plus side, the quartet of rescue dogs scampering around is a joy, the band and singer Nell O’Hara are impeccable, brother/sister act the Medinis are alluring whether skating together or performing separate balancing and hula hoop acts; the Ukrainian acrobatic act The Godfathers provide an awesome climax, and Maximiliano Stia, whose illusions come with a side order of comedy, is Merlin on the ridiculous.

Quibbles aside, it is a lovely way to spend a summer’s evening inside and outside the little big top.

MOVIES

STAR RATINGS

★★★★★ Excellent
★★★★ Good
★★★ Worth a look
★★ Poor
★ Don't bother



MARRIED IN HASTE
Comer and Butler

Bride and doom

THE BIKERIDERS

Cert 15 ★★★★★
In cinemas now

Inspired by photojournalist Danny Lyon's 1968 book dedicated to the camaraderie of the Chicago Outlaws Motorcycle Club, *The Bikeriders* lights a slow-burning fuse on doomed romance and lawlessness at a pivotal moment in American history. The Vietnam War casts a long shadow over writer-director Jeff Nichols' wistful drama, which is framed as a series of interviews in 1965 and 1973 between Lyon (Mike Faist) and a straight-talking young woman named Kathy (Jodie Comer), who gatecrashes a testosterone-soaked fraternity on two wheels founded by truck driver Johnny (Tom Hardy). She falls in love with biker Benny (Austin Butler) and they

marry five weeks into their courtship. Alas, love is no match for the siren song of a revved motorcycle engine.

Comer vividly embodies her chatterbox with an unfaltering, melodic accent that imbues her narration with warmth and humour. On-screen chemistry with Oscar-nominated Elvis star Butler smoulders and Hardy leverages his imposing physicality to dominate scenes as the motorcycle club founder who insists that challenges to his authority are settled with bare knuckles or knives.

Explosions of violence are graphic but dramatically necessary, including a wince-inducing altercation with a shovel and a vivid depiction of domestic abuse. An attempted sexual assault during a

“
Jodie Comer's on-screen chemistry with Austin Butler smoulders

booze-sodden party is staged with brio.

The plot drifts aimlessly for extended periods and some characters are sketched in broad strokes for expediency, but Nichols evokes a doom-laden era with conviction.

Ultimately, *The Bikeriders* is a handsomely crafted study of leather-jacketed machismo that stubbornly refuses to shift into top gear.

The script unfolds through the eyes of Comer's interloper, who is both intoxicated and horrified by her husband's unwavering devotion to the brotherhood.

Gently simmering romance shares a saddle with tragedy but Nichols' picture requires more fuel in the tank to firmly convince us to be in his gang for two hours.

SOMETHING IN THE WATER

Cert 15 ★★
In cinemas now

It has not been safe to go into the water since 1975 when director Steven Spielberg terrorised the fictional New England island of Amity with a flesh-hungry, great white shark. *Jaws* concealed its titular terror by necessity because the mechanical prop sharks malfunctioned on location in the Atlantic Ocean. The digitally rendered predator in *Something In The Water* is also absent for prolonged periods, forcing two-dimensional characters to tread water as director Hayley Easton Street merrily sets sail with a leaky script. Dialogue capsizes from the moment a stricken bride-to-be loudly

narrates her dire predicament ("You brought us to shark-infested waters the day before my wedding?") when she should be dreaming of tiger prawns and sea bass, not becoming fish food herself.

When a shark fin does surface here, it telegraphs the unhurried demise of the next protagonist without a compelling backstory.

A burst of *Reach* by S Club 7 provides heavy-handed foreshadowing. "We've got to all stick together/Good friends are there for each other..." harmonise the pop outfit.

Contrary heroines go out of their way to ignore this excellent advice and doggy-paddle into the slaving jaws of certain death.

Whatever is in the water of Street's film, I am not drinking it.



PREPARED
Nicole Rieko Setsuko as Cam

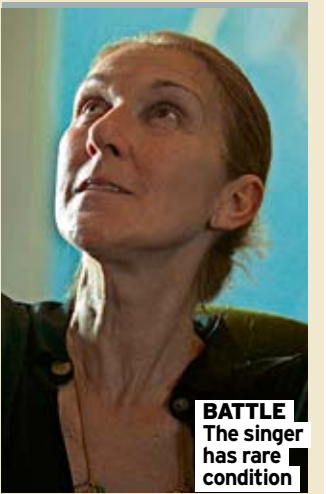
I AM: CELINE DION

Cert 12 ★★★★★
On Prime Video from June 25

In December 2022, award-winning singer Celine Dion posted a video on her Instagram account revealing she had been diagnosed with a rare neurological disorder, stiff person syndrome (SPS), which causes her muscles to spasm. Dion cancelled the remaining dates of her world tour to concentrate on her health and caring for twin sons Nelson and Eddy.

In the face of this life-altering illness, Dion allows cameras to document the unvarnished and deeply unsettling truth about SPS, which affects around one in a million people. Academy Award-nominated director Irene Taylor captures deeply distressing footage of a seizure that escalates from a spasm in one foot to crisis point with Dion issuing guttural screams of pain from inside her rigid body as medical staff rush to her aid. "If I can't run, I'll walk. If I can't walk, I'll crawl. But I won't stop," tearfully proclaims Dion, who is advised that sound and stress are two key triggers of her condition. Home video footage and rare photographs bookmark childhood reminiscences and Dion's humour shines through during a visit to a warehouse where she stores old costumes ("When a girl loves her shoes, she makes them fit!"). She walks tall and defiant in Taylor's heartbreaking documentary.

ALBUM REVIEW - Page 45



BATTLE
The singer has rare condition



BAD DAY
A struggling Crowe stars

THE EXORCISM

Cert 15 ★★
In cinemas now

At the beginning of *The Exorcism*, Russell Crowe's lapsed Catholic sits in a confessional booth and pleads forgiveness for his sins, which include "climbing inside a bottle for a couple of years" when he should have been caring for his wife and child.

His poorly written character might also consider atonement for the unholy mess of Joshua John Miller's disjointed horror, a half-baked film-within-a-film conceit that unleashes pure evil on the set of an ill-advised remake of *The Exorcist*, codenamed *The Georgetown Project*, which a bullying director (Adam Goldberg) loftily describes as "a psychological drama wrapped in the skin of a horror".

Aside from a couple of efficient jump scares, spine-tingling thrills are conspicuous by their absence. The plot careens off the rails in the final 20 minutes and flickers of discomfort are extinguished and replaced with bewilderment and frustration.

A thorny subplot concerning historic sexual abuse at the hands of Catholic priests is mishandled and the LGBTQ+ love story feels like an afterthought to loosely tether two female protagonists.

When it comes to editors Gardner Gould and Matthew Woolley performing a modern-day miracle and conjuring coherence from the escalating madness, alas those prayers go unanswered. Heaven help us all.

BOOKS

The 1960s supermodel talks about the pain and catharsis of her debut novel, based on her extraordinary life

Penelope Tree says being a feminist was “completely not a thing” back when she worked as a supermodel in the 1960s.

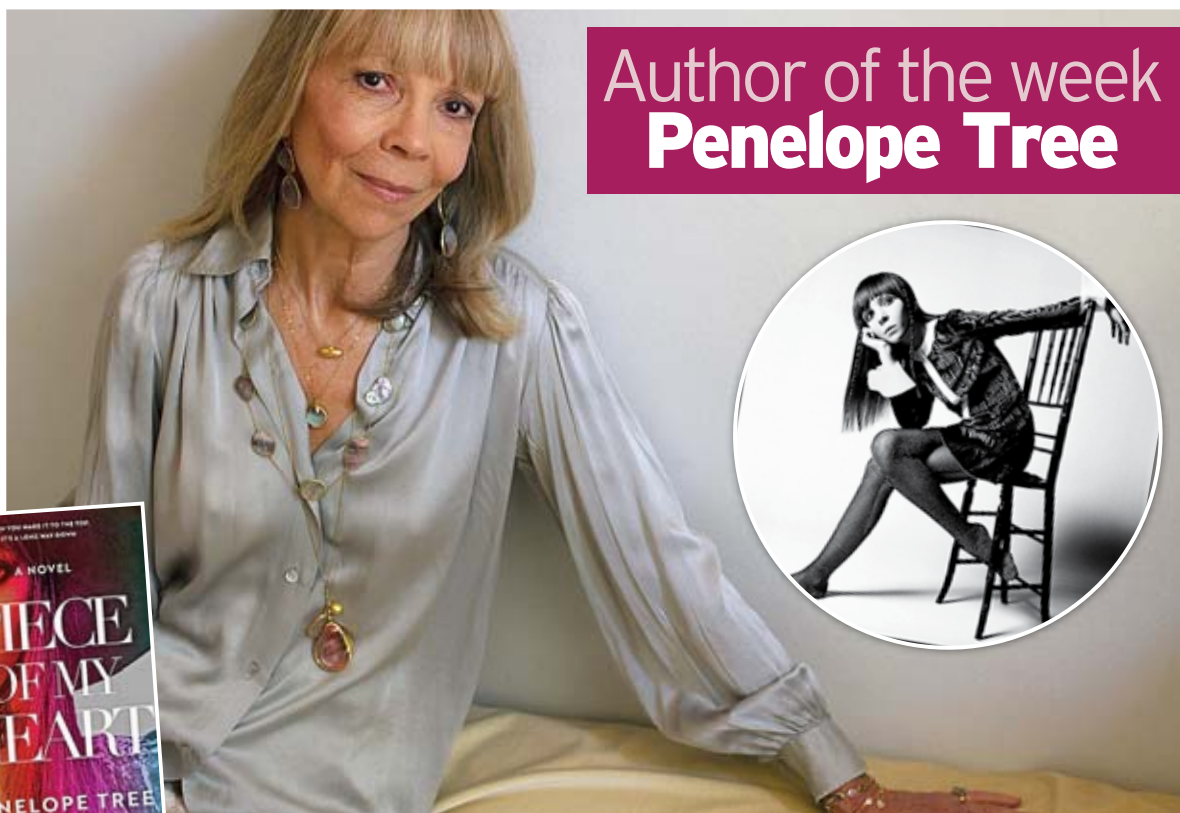
With her otherworldly look, American-born Tree was discovered as a teenager and swiftly became a key face of London's Swinging Sixties. She crashed out of the fashion industry in her twenties after developing severe late-onset acne, and has largely kept out of the spotlight since then.

Now 74, Tree is revisiting her past through a slightly unusual vehicle – rather than going down the tried and tested route of a memoir, she's written a work of fiction.

Piece Of My Heart follows teenager Ari, whose alien-like looks catch the attention of the fashion industry. She becomes a model, has a turbulent relationship with an older photographer, and her career comes to an abrupt end when she develops painful adult acne.

If a lot of that sounds remarkably familiar, Tree is keen to highlight that it's not strictly autobiographical. She grew up in New York, for one – not a stately English home like Ari – and many of the characters are composites of real people rather than being based on individuals.

But still, the similarities are there, with Tree explaining: “I was something I really wanted to talk about and write about for a long time. I think it was quite an important thing for me to do, it crystallised a lot of feelings that I had about that whole time, feeling like it had been



Author of the week Penelope Tree

such a series of losses and failures.

“I went up, and then I went plummeting down. I lost so much confidence and I wanted to look at it a bit more closely.”

Reliving such a painful time “put me through a lot of emotion”, Tree admits, while ultimately calling the writing process “cathartic”.

“It was really helpful to me. I feel a lot more resolved with things that happened, even though it didn't happen exactly the way it is in the book. But somehow, using your imagination to work with the past can be really transformative.”

One character who was plucked straight from reality is Ari's boyfriend, clearly inspired by Tree's former partner, photographer David Bailey. It's not the most flattering of portrayals – he's depicted as a

creative genius who can be controlling and unfaithful – and Tree gave him full warning before the book was published.

“He's pretty cool about it,” Tree notes, but she's also doubtful Bailey, now 86, will actually read the novel.

Tree's memories of this time are dominated by her relationship with Bailey, which is reflected in the book.

“When you fall in love, you have the illusion that you're wholly bonded – at one with the other person. And as the veil slowly peels away from your eyes, you realise it's really down to you in the end to be the person that you are.”

The relationship flamed out dramatically, with Tree saying she then had to figure out how to survive “without depending on this person who was always so sure about everything”. The split and her

unceremonious exit from the fashion industry both happened in 1974, causing Tree to “lose all my confidence”, she remembers.

“And it wasn't totally Bailey's fault, either. I just wasn't emotionally equipped to deal with being a professional. I was really young, but didn't listen. I was quite stubborn and didn't listen to people who knew better in the industry, and paid the consequences.”

She wasn't the only one undergoing changes as the 1970s arrived. Tree says it was happening on a wider societal level too.

“It really went a lot darker,” she says. “Suddenly the consequences of taking drugs and stuff like that started to hit people.”

Tree herself was arrested in 1972 for possession of cocaine, which is mirrored in the book when Ari finds

herself in a similar situation. Not that the 1960s were as rosy as you might think – something Tree wanted to make clear in Piece Of My Heart.

“People have an Austin Powers idea of how the '60s were but this was a very mixed time, certainly for girls and women.

“We often find that all the men have mostly all the power – there were very few women who really took the ball and ran with it.

“That was my experience. I was very passive, I suppose, and it's something I had to learn... how to be independent.”

Tree spent decades out of the limelight – moving to Australia, having two children, discovering Buddhism – before returning to the UK in 1998, where she now lives in the south-east of England. She has tentatively returned to modelling, returning to the runway for a Fendi show in 2020, and appearing in Vivienne Westwood's spring/summer 2024 campaign alongside Naomi Campbell earlier this year.

“For many years, I felt very insecure and like I hadn't finished something properly, because of the whole thing that happened with my skin and having to leave so abruptly,” she reflects.

“I had a bad feeling – a sort of trauma – and then 40 years passed. And actually, I had so much distance between what happened, and now I've met so many creative people, which is what I always loved most about the whole thing.”

While she's enjoying dipping her toe back into the world of fashion, Tree has always wanted to be a writer – and publishing her first novel is a big step forward for her.

If she was going to give a piece of advice to her younger self, it would be this: “Get a move on with writing. Don't wait 50 years to write your first novel.”

■ Piece Of My Heart by Penelope Tree is published by Moonflower Publishing, priced £18.99. Available now.

Four new books to read this week

FICTION

Spoilt Creatures

by Amy Twigg, hardback by Tinder Press, £18.99 (ebook £9.99)

Amy Twigg's debut novel follows Iris, a 32-year-old single and lonely woman who is drawn to Hazel, a resident of a local women's commune in the Kent Downs. Enticed by the opportunity to escape the men who have let her down and the oppressions of society, Iris joins the commune.

However, she quickly realises that even within this group of women, power dynamics are at play, especially under the leadership of the domineering Blythe. When a group of men descends upon the farm, the women's existence is threatened. Twigg's storytelling is captivating yet unsettling, drawing readers into a complex emotional landscapes of characters. **9/10**



The Switch

by Lily Samson, hardback by Century, £14.99 (ebook £7.99)

Lily Samson's fast-paced debut thriller will have readers gripped as Elena and partner Adam get sucked into the intriguing world of their glamorous neighbours Sophia and Finn.

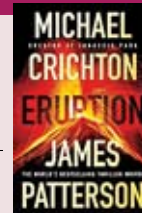
The disturbing plot, inspired by Roald Dahl's 1974 short story The Great Switcheroo, sees Elena and Sophia start a bizarre secret swap, sneaking into each other's houses in affluent Wimbledon at night to climb into bed with the other's unsuspecting partner. It's gradually revealed that this is more than just a way to spice up their relationships, with Alfred Hitchcock fan Samson offering twist after twist. Luckily, the signposting isn't so heavy handed as to make it predictable. **8/10**



Eruption

by James Patterson and Michael Crichton, hardback by Century, £22 (ebook £10.99)

Renowned thriller writer James Patterson was asked to complete an unfinished book about a volcanic eruption started by Jurassic Park author Michael Crichton before his death. The collaboration has produced an extraordinary story, building slowly just like a volcano, and exploding into a dramatic finish. Set in Hawaii, Eruption charts a race against time to save an island, and possibly entire countries, against lava reaching deadly canisters containing radioactive waste. It's a ticking time bomb as scientists and the high-ranking military have to work out how it can be defused before death and destruction result. An astonishing story. **8/10**



NON-FICTION

Lucky

by Louise Thompson, hardback by Ebury Spotlight, £22 (ebook £11.99)

Former Made In Chelsea star turned influencer and fitness entrepreneur Louise Thompson reveals the shocking truth of what happened to her during the birth of her son Leo in this raw and searingly honest memoir. Anyone who follows the 34 year old on social media will know she's suffered a myriad of physical and mental health problems since becoming a mother two-and-a-half years ago, but the book details how she nearly died twice after two haemorrhages and the PTSD she was left with. It's harrowing and heartbreaking, but important in a world where women often aren't listened to regarding their health. **9/10**



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MUSIC

with
GARRY
BUSHELL

ALBUM RELEASES



The Voice will go on

Celine Dion

I Am: Celine Dion

The Voice is back. Not fully - Celine Dion is still battling the debilitating effects of Stiff Person Disease. But this is the soundtrack to her new documentary, and a statement of intent.

Celine has vowed to return to live performances later this year for the first time since March 2020.

This compilation packs in the huge emotional power ballads that made the French-Canadian singer a 1990s superstar and more recently a Vegas fixture.

Hits like Because You Loved Me and My Heart Will Go On - forever associated with 1997's Titanic movie - have extra poignancy now.

Celine lost her husband and her brother in 2016, and was



then forced to stop singing live by her rare neurological disorder.

Last year's moving piano ballad Love Again was part of the healing process.

She sings, "The sun will rise again, the storms subside again/ This is not the end, and you will love again."

This 20-song album ranges from her 1993 cover of Jennifer Rush's The Power Of Love - her first US chart-topper - to upbeat belters like River Deep Mountain

High where the sheer potency of that unmistakable voice shines through.

There are four French numbers, including her sublime 1995 signature tune, Pour Que Tu M'Aimes Encore, and the more recent J'Irai Ou Tu Iras, a Meatloaf-lite rocker.

There are also seven original instrumental tracks, composed for the doc by cellist Redi Hasa.

Dion has had an incredible career. A professional singer at 14, she has sold more than 250million albums since her 1981 French language debut - 60m of them in 1997 and 98 alone.

For a time, it became fashionable to dismiss Celine as humourless - she isn't - and somehow naff. These songs remind you of her remarkable talent.

Tragic but triumphant, The Voice will go on.



Moby

Always Centered At Night

The world's best-loved techno-pop vegan is in a downbeat mood on his 22nd album. The tracks are lush but snoozy and largely forgettable. Highs include Where Is Your Pride? with late dub-poet Benjamin Zephaniah reciting lyrics over a breakbeat, the clubby Should Sleep, and the morosely soulful Transit featuring Gaidaa.



Carly Pearce

Hummingbird

Kentucky-born Carly ups the stakes with a confident fourth album packed with personality. She co-wrote all but one of the 14 tracks, ranging from the feisty Heels Over Head to bluegrass ballads. Country Music Made Me Do It is a tongue-in-cheek hymn to going off the rails. Classy, catchy country pop soused in moonshine.



King & Country

Unsung Hero

The Aussie-born US brothers took their name from an English battle cry and chalked up platinum sales. This guest-studded soundtrack from their new biopic refreshes 90s songs. Best is She Believes, about their mum. Like everything the Grammy-winning Christian brothers do, it's heartfelt, uplifting pop, tastefully delivered.


HELEN LEDERER

NOT THAT I'M BITTER

'Funny, wise, brilliant and brave. Just like its author'

Ben Elton

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TODAY'S TV

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MISSION Kerry records Josh at The Woolpack
EMMERDALE
ITV1, 7.30pm

Kerry schmoozes Josh at The Woolpack, and secretly attempts to record their conversation on her phone, eager for him to spill, but her plan soon backfires. Kerry then delivers an ultimatum to Charity that doesn't go down well. Elsewhere, Dawn admits to Will that she is constantly worried about hugging the other kids in case she picks up any germs and transfers them to Evan. And Belle continues to struggle with Tom's manipulative behaviour as she does everything in her power to keep herself safe.



UPSET Chesney's not happy with Joseph
CORONATION STREET
ITV1, 8pm

When Abi asks Kevin about him getting up in the night, he puts it down to stress but later asks Max if he can hack into a stolen phone. Tyrone opens an email to find a video of Kevin breaking into Stefan's office. As Joseph is dropped home by his school friend Olly's posh mum, Chesney's gutted to realise Joseph has made out he runs a successful catering empire. And When Cassie arrives for work, her first task is to cut Ken's toenails.

In the **DAILY MIRROR** Saturday



LOVE

GAGGING ORDER
Hugh Bonneville heads the topical drama DOUGLAS IS CANCELLED

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Dynasty with all the drama

TALENTED TRIO? 'Momager' Kris, Kim Kardashian and Kylie Jenner
HOUSE OF KARDASHIAN
Sky Documentaries, 7pm
DIVISIVE, adored, globally successful - the Kardashians are a dynasty that the world can't stop watching.

To some they are an inspiration, role models for girls and women. To others, they are untalented and morally bankrupt reality stars, selling a superficial fairy tale. Featuring exclusive interviews with those in their inner circle - including Caitlyn Jenner - this

three-parter focuses on their undoubted influence. Focusing on the three most powerful members of the Kardashian-Jenner family - Kris Jenner, Kim Kardashian and Kylie Jenner - it explores their rise, reach and the cost that comes with being some of the most famous women on the planet. The narratives behind the family's relationships, scandals, controversial business deals and personal struggles are seen from a new perspective with revealing first-hand accounts from those close with the family. And their story isn't over, as the family's influence and ambition continues to grow, the series also considers where their huge power will take them and the kind of legacy they will leave behind. In the first part of the triple bill, it's 1960s San Diego and Kris Jenner dreams of finding a husband. After

PICK of the DAY her marriage to Robert Kardashian ends, her ambitions are ignited. In episode two, a sex tape of Kim Kardashian emerges, leading to a stratospheric reality show catapulting the family's name around the world. In the final episode, Kylie Jenner keeps the family relevant and becomes a Generation Z icon, but pressure mounts on the Kardashian dynasty to be socially responsible.



TOGETHER Matt and Maria
THE NEVER METS
Channel 4, 10pm

With more and more people meeting their partners online, it's not uncommon to have been dating someone for a while whom you've never met. This emotional series follows these couples as they make the leap into the unknown - finally meeting up in real life. In this episode, 38-year-old virgin Matt from Warrington gets to experience a physical relationship for the very first time as he gets to

know Maria, his online girlfriend of three years. But Matt's lack of judgment with Maria's family threatens the future of their relationship. Sarah and Jgoy await a decision on Jgoy's tourist visa that will allow him to visit her in the UK. And 24-year-old Leah arrives in Fargo in the US to meet her long-distance lover Chad who, at 48 years old, is twice her age. He is keen to move to Glasgow with his teenage daughter to be with Leah, but she is experiencing some doubts.

ISLE OF WIGHT FESTIVAL
Sky Arts, 7pm

Coverage begins of the four-day music festival, with a host of brilliant acts taking to the stage at Seaclose Park, Newport, Isle of Wight. The line-up includes headliners The Prodigy, The Pretenders, Pet Shop Boys, Simple Minds, Zara Larsson, Suede, Scouting For Girls, Green Day and Keane. Watch out also for performances from The Streets, Crowded House, The Darkness, The Bootleg Beatles, Jessie J, Jake Shears, Natalie Imbruglia,

McFly, Beverley Knight, Feeder and S Club. Edith Bowman hosts more than 20 hours of music and fun on the channel, bringing news, interviews and live music from the legendary event. It's an extra special festival for DJ Edith this year as she's taking her 11-year-old son Spike along with her. She says: "I'm slightly excited about the fact he's coming with me. He is the biggest Green Day fan in the world. It will be great being able to watch them, and also watch it through his eyes."



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YOUR VOICE

Edited by
**AMANDA
EVANS**

TV TOPICS

WIN
£5



Finally, one of our TV stations has seen the light. BBC1 seems to have realised that not all its viewers want to watch wall-to-wall football. On Saturday, June 15, the BBC was showing football on BBC1 but the penny has obviously dropped because it was showing Casualty and Rebus, pictured, on BBC2. Perhaps the other free to air channels will fall into line?
Carol Doust, South East London

BBC2 documentary Putin V Greenpeace was very informative in explaining why Greenpeace activists became imprisoned in a Russian jail following their attempt to protest involving a Russian oil rig. What an ordeal for those brave Greenpeace activists being confronted by balaclava-wearing gunmen. Terrifying - it is something that shouldn't happen to anyone demonstrating.
Muhammad Zeeshan, Leicester

missing people

Registered Charity in England and Wales (1020419)
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This week is Damien Nettles' birthday. He was 16 when he went missing from Cowes, Isle of Wight, on November 2, 1996.

If you think you can help the search, please contact Missing People. Damien, we'd love to hear from you. Call. Text. Free. Confidential. 116 000.



Superb job? Who are you kidding?

COULD the Tories stoop any lower? Jeremy Hunt has the audacity to moan about the people in this country thinking they hadn't done a good job. Seriously?

We are in the worst situation we have been in for many years. He has no right to be "frustrated" and yes, we do think the country is going to "hell in a handcart".

This is what 14 years of Tory rule gets you. We are broken Britain and it's a result of having to put up with years of madcap policies and being taxed to high heaven.

Does this man live in the real world? I doubt it. Has he not seen how worse off families are and how heating your home and eating well are now luxuries to most people?

**John Hornsby
Littlehampton, West Sussex**

First, Chancellor Jeremy Hunt described Liz Truss's economic plans as a "good thing to aim for". Then he revealed that Rishi Sunak deliberately blocked efforts to fix the NHS workforce.

Clearly Hunt has seen the writing on the wall. Yet instead of throwing his weight at the Lib Dems, he instead pushes his boss, Sunak, straight under a bus.

**Geoffrey Brooking
Havant, Hants**

I'd love to know what medication Jeremy Hunt is on. I think the rest of the country could do with some. He is convinced his government has done a good job. The NHS is on its knees, foodbanks are struggling and we all pay more tax than ever.

Paul Booker, Clay Cross, Derbyshire

THE BIG ISSUE

Chancellor Jeremy Hunt complained on a secret recording he was annoyed that many feel his party has done a bad job. He told guests at a fundraising dinner that he was "incredibly frustrated" that people think the country is going to "hell in a handcart" and failed to appreciate the Conservative government's "superb record". You say...



The Tories think they've done a good job over the past 14 years. Here are a few examples of why they haven't: austerity; NHS; schools; dentists; government funding; council bankruptcy; public services; potholes; child poverty; pensioner poverty; foodbanks; TV licences; highest tax burden; highest national debt and low growth; recession, inflation; tax evasion; workers' rights; human rights, the right to protest; Liz Truss; mortgages; sewage dumping; sleaze and corruption.

Not to mention PPE, Partygate and the rest. The list goes on. If Labour do get in, they will inherit a massive mess. Please don't expect miracles overnight.

Michael Wild, Wakefield

The Tories have spent 14 years in office destroying the country. So what does Jeremy Hunt expect, a pat on the back? To say they have had a "superb record" since coming to power in 2010 is ridiculous.

Superb for who exactly? Maybe for his own party and their cronies but not for me or my family and the rest of the country. My monthly bills, outgoings and mortgage payments have increased so much,

even in the past year, and we have cut back as much as we can.

This is simply not sustainable and we now need a change of government and for things to turn around as quickly as possible.

Carl Peterson, Wokingham, Berks

I would love to have been a fly on the wall at the fundraising dinner when Jeremy Hunt got annoyed that people didn't think things were going very well.

But I think that it was a room full of Tories anyway so they probably sympathised with him. The party is divided and it's like watching a ship sinking.

Tony Quinn, Ipswich, Suffolk

Jeremy Hunt is on course to lose his seat at the General Election. I find it laughable that he can say he feels frustrated that people don't think the Tories have done a good job. The cost-of-living crisis and the immigrant issue are two main reasons the Tories won't get back into government.

It's time he started looking around for a new job. Although I don't think he needs the money, like the rest of the rich Tories.

Ben Cawston, Oundle, Northants

Treasured memories

Every Monday we print your treasured family photos in our popular Your Memories section. So, if you have an old picture you'd like to share with us please email or write to Your Memories at yourvoice@mirror.co.uk or Daily Mirror, One Canada Square, London, E14 5AP and include the photo and some information about who's in it and when and where it was taken. Please don't send originals as we can't return them.

Recognition for O'Brien

This year's King's Birthday Honours list saw a few well deserved knighthoods, but there was one omission that should not have occurred. If anyone should have earned a knighthood, it was racing trainer Aidan O'Brien. His record is second to none, as is his humility each time his mounts win. Please get this rectified - it is so deserved.

Phil German, Aberdare Rhondda Cynon Taf

Tweet of the day



Labour candidate Chris Bryant on insider information betting and the investigations by the Gambling Commission...

@RhonddaBryant - I am constantly surprised by the craven greed of some people but this story of people betting on the date of the general election using privileged information takes the biscuit. It's as if Tories don't think the rules apply to them.

Now we hear people have been allegedly placing illegal bets on the election, how are we not surprised? More lies and underhand decisions, coupled with Rishi Sunak saying what he will do if he gets back into power after 14 years in office. They haven't done it yet so why should we believe him now? Time to go.
Alan Robinson, Liverpool

Pub quiz answers

How many of our daily pub quiz brainteasers did you manage to get right?

1. Seven
2. Keratin
3. Shoes
4. Hazelnut
5. Playing cards

THE BIG QUESTION

Every day we'll be asking your opinion on one of Britain's big talking points. You can have your say and vote at mirror.co.uk

A single mum has said she "felt like a criminal" after being kicked out of Pink's concert in London on Saturday with her disabled son. Vanessa Vasey said her son struggled to stay seated and "around six security guards" said her son would have to "sit down or they must leave".

Were the security guards right to get involved?

**YES
37%**

**NO
63%**

Yes. Others have the right to enjoy the concert too. She should have phoned the venue to ask if there was appropriate seating to accommodate them.
KISSMYASK

No. So disabled children are not to be taken to concerts? Pink should refund them.
SEASAW98

Yes. It's health and safety. You have to follow the rules.
SOUTHLONDONBLOKE

No. It's disgusting behaviour. I hope she gets a refund.
ROBINREDBREAST88

Yes. She knew the issues her son had, why would she put him in such a situation? Not the fault of the security or venue.
REDJOCK

No. I would have sued for disability discrimination.
SMOGGIE1979

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Nicola shines in Bridgerton

Bridgerton star Nicola Coughlan is a superb actress and I have been thoroughly enjoying the latest series where she stars as Penelope. The chemistry between her and co-star Luke Newton who plays Colin is obvious.

I know I am not alone in wishing they would get together in real life - they would make an amazing couple. I hope that they both go on to star together in other projects in the future as they do make a great team.

Beth Sommers, Brighton

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ATHLETICS PARIS OLYMPICS

Leg-break shock for GB's Archibald



BY MIKE WALTERS
DOUBLE Olympic champion Katie Archibald will miss the Paris Games after breaking her left leg in a freak garden accident.

In a blow to Team GB's track cycling squad, where she was the de facto leader of the women's endurance team following Dame Laura Kenny's retirement, Archibald suffered a

fractured tibia and fibula plus ankle ligament damage.

She underwent surgery on Wednesday and, posting a picture of herself in a hospital bed on Instagram (above), she said: "I tripped over a step in the garden and managed to, somehow, dislocate my ankle; break my tibia and fibula; and rip two ligaments off the bone. What the heck."

RUGBY UNION WALES

Grace in the race for Australia tour



REGAN GRACE has been described as an "X-factor" player following his shock call-up to Wales' summer training squad.

Former rugby league star Grace (above), who has only played two senior games of union, could now travel to Australia for a tour highlighted by Tests against the Wallabies on July 6 and 13.

Head coach Warren Gatland will finalise his

travelling group after Saturday's Twickenham clash against South Africa.

And Grace might find himself in contention after Ospreys wing Keelan Giles was released because of a groin injury.

"He has got that X-factor," said Wales assistant coach Jonathan Humphreys.

"You can't buy what he has got and we are excited to have him here."



RU

JAPAN v ENGLAND
TOMORROW, 6.50AM

HELLO AGAIN
England's Jamie George will enjoy a beer with Japan's Eddie Jones once hostilities are over

George: get ready for Eddie

FORMER BOSS WILL HAVE JAPAN FIRED UP

FROM ADAM HATHAWAY in Tokyo

JAMIE GEORGE has warned his England team that Eddie Jones will have his Japan side 'mentally' firing on all cylinders for tomorrow's Tokyo Test.

Captain George was given his big break under Jones, but only after sitting on the bench for 17 internationals before getting a start and knows him inside out.

The hooker has seen Jones' motivational powers help England to a Grand Slam in 2016 and a whitewash of Australia the same year.

Under Jones, George was part of England's finest performance since 2003 when they hammered the All Blacks in the 2019 World Cup semi-final in Yokohama (above).

At the start of that week, Jones sliced a kiwi fruit up with a samurai sword to represent what England were going to do to the New Zealanders.

And George recognises the Aussie will have done something similar with his new-look Brave Blossoms ahead of the tour opener, but admits it will be odd opposing his old boss.

He said: "You know from the first meeting, his tone

of voice, the plan, the themes around the plan. He is very good at building up a week to make it feel like a huge game.

"I imagine it will have been one of those weeks in the Japan camp and he'll do everything to get them in the right state to come out swinging.

"I am not that bothered about impressing him any more. I'm looking forward

naming Yoshitaka Yazaki, a 20-year-old student who has been playing for Waseda University and without a professional game to his name.

Jones was muted, but could not resist firing out one warning to his protegee Steve Borthwick.

"We know England were a top-four side at the World Cup," said Jones.

"But we are going to take them right to the last moment. I have got a really good feeling and if we are good enough, we will win the game.

"England have got experience, they're three years into a cycle under Steve, we're 10 days into a cycle.

"So, there's a gap there, but we've got no excuse, we've prepared really well and we're going to give it a red-hot go on Saturday."

Jones has reappointed flanker Michael Leitch as captain. The back row was one of the heroes of Japan's 2015 World Cup win over South Africa when Jones was last in charge.

ENGLAND: Furbank; Feyi-Waboso, Slade, Lawrence, Freeman; Smith, Mitchell; Rodd, George (capt), Cole, Itoje, Martin, Cunningham-South, Underhill, Earl
REPLACEMENTS: Dan, Marler, Stuart, Ewels, Curry, Randall, Smith, Roebuck
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RUGBY LEAGUE

LEEDS v LEIGH LEOPARDS
KICK-OFF, 8PM



EXCLUSIVE

BY DAVE CRAVEN
Rugby League Correspondent
@DCravenRL



JOINT-CARETAKER boss Chev Walker admits some Leeds players are wilting under pressure - but just need reminding they are good enough.

Rhinos take on Leigh tonight barely 48 hours after head coach Rohan Smith (inset, below) was relieved of duties in the Headingley hotseat.

That decision came after a raft of poor performances this term, the nadir being Saturday's horror show loss at Hull.

Assistants Walker (right) and Scott Grix look to steady the ship as sporting director Ian Bleasdale begins the search for a new head coach.

It will be an emotional night as Leeds celebrate the life of the iconic Rob Burrow on Global MND Awareness Day.

And Walker, 41, is confident the squad, stuck outside the play-offs in seventh, have it in them to turn things around.

He said: "The lads are trying. They're turning up to training and working hard. It's just like they seem scared or scarred."

"There is outside noise. There is a little pressure there. And rightly so. At a club like Leeds there's pressure when you're winning let alone when you're not travelling so well."

"It's finding a way both as players and coaches to make them feel they can do it because they can. We've seen glimpses of it."

"The signs that helped us get to the Grand Final in 2022 are still there. We're just not checking into them enough."

It will be tough against an in-form Leigh side, though, who have lost one of their last six games. Rhinos have also lost four players to concussion protocols since the weekend - England trio Ash Handley, Harry Newman and Tom Holroyd plus New Zealander prop Sam Lisone.

Walker, who played almost 200 games for Leeds including the 2004 Grand Final before returning to their coaching staff four years ago, has given an insight into the issues at Headingley.

He insisted: "The lads have rolled their sleeves up. But Mondays have been hard. Players do genuinely care. They are just struggling at the minute with some things."

"I've been around the sport enough times to know, if you're going well, then game day, generally, is the best day of the week."

"But I feel for some of them it is nerve-racking and a little bit of 'here we go again' when something goes wrong. We need to find a way to push through that."

Leeds will wear a special kit for the game, which was designed by Cath Muir, who was diagnosed with MND in 2014.

It features an image of Rob Burrow with Kevin Sinfield. A portion of the profit from each shirt sold will be donated to the Leeds Hospitals Charity appeal to build the Rob Burrow Centre for MND.

SCARED OR SCARRER



Trying times at Leeds as assistant Chev admits Rhinos are feeling the pressure but expects them to hit back

WE'RE HURTING
Rhinos' Lachlan Miller **SEES THINGS GO WRONG AGAIN**



WIGAN WARRIORS v LONDON BRONCOS 8PM

WALTERS: GIVE ME GAME TIME

BY DAVE CRAVEN
Wigan powerhouse Sam Walters is out to make sure he never gets left out again.

The towering forward had to make do with 18th man duties when they lifted the Challenge Cup at Wembley.

But he got a start in last week's win at Castleford and hopes to back it up with another big display in his home debut against London tonight.

Walters (above), an off-season capture from Leeds, missed much of the campaign with a broken collarbone. He

said: "I processed it in my head when I was injured that I was probably going to miss out on some of the big games."

"Limited minutes probably played the biggest factor, and I understood it."

"Even to be in the picture was a big positive for myself."

"Going forward, when we do get to those big games, I want to be involved."

"Being 18th man down in London was an amazing experience on its own, so I can't imagine what it would be like in the team and playing."



CASTLEFORD TIGERS 12 HULL KR 13

WANE WILL LOOK AT KR STAR MINCHELLA

BY ROSS HEPPENSTALL

ELLIOT MINCHELLA pressed his claims for a maiden England cap as Hull KR went joint-top.

The Robins captain (right) notched a clinical first-half try which gave Shaun Wane another timely nudge.

Wane's England play France on Saturday week and Minchella could feature with team-mates Mikey Lewis and Jez Litten.

After Litten's 75th-minute drop-goal proved decisive, visiting boss Willie Peters said: "Shaun will have watched the game and there's a few

of our guys who could get picked - Elliot, Mikey and Jez. Elliot should be in the team. He's a really important player for us."

Castleford led through Sam Wood before the visitors hit back through Tom Opacic and Minchella.

Lewis added his second conversion to go 12-6 up but the hosts levelled when Rowan Milnes dummied his way over from close range for a try he converted.

That made it 12-12 before Litten's one-pointer.

Tigers boss Craig Lingard said: "We're getting there as a group."



BOXING ARTHUR v CAMERON



CAMERON: I TURNED MY LIFE AROUND

BY CHRIS MCKENNA

IT was lying in a hospital bed after taking an overdose just under two years ago when Liam Cameron realised he needed to change.

The Sheffield boxer had been blue-lighted to hospital and he thought the end was coming.

Tonight he will look to take the next step in turning his life completely around by beating former world title challenger Lyndon Arthur in Bolton.

It would be quite the 'Rocky' story but this is no cheesy Hollywood flick. This is a story of heartbreak, loss and the depths of despair. A tragic tale in which he also had to deal with the death of his stepdaughter.

It's five years now since Cameron, 33, was handed a four-year ban from sport after traces of benzoyllecgonine (a metabolite of cocaine) were found in a post-fight UKAD test following his Commonwealth middleweight title win over Nicky Jenman.

Cameron was stunned, pleaded his innocence but his defence that he could have handled money with traces of cocaine on them when collecting ticket money in pubs for his fight were dismissed.

"I'm not a liar, I've no need to lie," he said. "It could have been four or five things, but it was a metabolite and not the actual drug."

"Why would I take it? It's not performance enhancing. It was minute traces but you get others who have needles sticking out of them getting six months."

Cameron went off the rails following his appeal rejection.

He said: "I totally went, 'I can be a regular person now, go to the pub and enjoy my life' but that turned into alcohol abuse, other stuff I was doing that I can't speak about. It wasn't a good time."

He added: "I was saying the same rubbish 'I'll start Monday, I'll stop drinking by Monday' but I never did. I ended up having an overdose, ambulance came for me and I thought I was dead."

"I said then 'listen if I can survive this I'll stop drinking' and from that day - it will be two years in January - that happened."

In the midst of all this, Cameron's step-daughter Tiegan, 20, was killed in a car accident in 2020. "That was a horrendous day, a really sad day," he said.

Now after three comeback wins, he has taken a huge step up in class to face former light-heavyweight title challenger Arthur.

"I've already turned my life around but this will change it completely," he said.

Watch Arthur v Cameron live on Channel 5 tonight from 10pm



LANDO: HELP ME TO CATCH MAX, FELLAS

BY DANIEL MOXON
LANDO NORRIS admits he needs help from his fellow Brits on the F1 grid if he is to stop Max Verstappen winning a fourth-straight title.

The McLaren driver (above, with Verstappen) is third in the standings, 63 points off the defending champion. Red Bull have been tested by McLaren and Ferrari in recent weeks, while Mercedes joined the fight for the win last time out in Montreal.

And Norris needs Lewis Hamilton and George Russell to keep up that pressure if he has any chance of dethroning Verstappen.

Asked if he thinks there is a chance he can stop the flying Dutchman this year, the 24-year-old said: "I think it's tough, but there are probably more chances and possibilities now - especially if Mercedes are in the fight."

"That means there's more of a chance of a bigger swing of points. A bad weekend for Max was third before, and it could be that it's now a fifth or a sixth."

"And if you can be that one guy who wins, within one weekend you can turn around a lot of points fairly quickly. If it goes like that, then I'd say there's a higher chance."

But Norris added: "With Max, a bad weekend is never going to be a bad weekend. You can't doubt Max in any area. He doesn't have a weakness."

Verstappen has said he relishes the challenge of having to fight harder for wins than he did in the last two years.

He said: "I really enjoy getting everything out of the car myself and winning by 20 seconds. But I'm not afraid of competition."

"I'm not here because of other people's opinions. I know what I can do and the team knows what I can do, so I just focus on my performance."

Verstappen also took aim at the promoters of the British Grand Prix after a top Silverstone chief blamed Red Bull for a failure to sell out of tickets.

Fans can still buy passes for the race weekend with just two weeks to go and attendance figures are expected to be lower than last year's record of 480,000.

Silverstone managing director Stuart Pringle claimed Red Bull's stranglehold on F1 has "taken the edge off" the sport and it has been "harder" to sell tickets as a result.

Verstappen responded by saying: "I don't think it's my fault. The F1 season is very exciting with a lot of teams fighting for wins now."

"If the promoter can't fill the seats and they blame it on someone else, then they first have to look at themselves."

T20 WORLD CUP

ENGLAND v SOUTH AFRICA ST LUCIA, 3.30PM

SALT AND BATTERY

Phil: It's been stop-start so far but now's the time to pull the trigger

LEADING T20 WORLD CUP 2024 BATSMEN
1 Nicholas Pooran (WI)
200 (Highest score 98, 14 Fours 14 Sixes)
2 Andries Gous (US)
182 (Highest score 80, 17 Fours 9 Sixes)
3 Rahmanullah Gurbaz (AFG)
178 (Highest score 80, 11 Fours 11 Sixes)
7 Phil Salt (Eng)
147 (Highest score 87, 13 Fours 9 Sixes)

SUPER 8's, GROUP 2

	P	W	L	R/R	Pts
England	1	1	0	+1.343	2
South Africa	1	1	0	+0.900	2
USA	1	0	1	-0.900	0
West Indies	1	0	1	-1.343	0

A JOB WELL DONE
Bairstow and Salt carried England to an eight-wicket victory



TEAMS ENGLAND: Salt, Buttler (c), Ali, Bairstow, Brook, Livingstone, Curran, Archer, Rashid, Wood, Topley
SOUTH AFRICA: De Kock, Hendricks, Markram (c), Klaasen, Miller, Stubbs, Jansen, Maharaj, Nortje, Rabada, Shamsi
REFEREE: Jeff Crowe
UMPIRES: Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid and Chris Brown

BY MIKE WALTERS
@MikeWaltersMGM
PHIL SALT decided it was time to "pull the trigger" - and now England can come out all guns blazing against South Africa today.

With a 30-run blitz from a single Romario Shepherd over, Salt demolished co-hosts West Indies in St Lucia at the Twenty20 World Cup.

And another Super 8 win against South Africa at the same venue, or against the United States in Barbados on Sunday, will leave Jos Buttler's men on the brink of the semi-finals less than a week after they dived with elimination at the group stage.

Opener Salt's (right) unbeaten 87 from 47 balls catapulted the holders to an eight-wicket win with 2.3 overs to spare - and his takedown of Shepherd, as England chased 181 to win, was the moment their campaign went nuclear.

Another case of Salt and battery against the Proteas could turn England's renewed belief into a force of nature after his plunder of three sixes and three boundaries off Shepherd in the 16th over.

He said: "That was my time to pull the trigger. The first sniff I got, I had to take that chance."

"To come here and play like that against a very strong side, who are riding a wave in their own conditions, with a home crowd, is a great feeling."

England's fortunes have turned since their rain-affected group stage left them a whisker away from being knocked out - and they would have gone home without Australia finding the emergency

handbrake to deny Scotland a shock win last weekend. Salt admitted: "It's been very stop-start for us. We had a hiccup against Australia and a washout against Scotland, a really topsy-turvy start, and it didn't feel like we'd played that much cricket to this point."

"But in tournament cricket you need confidence and momentum at the right time. To get a win against the hosts gives us a first push in that direction."

Salt's headline act against West Indies was far from a one-man show, with Jonny Bairstow (48 not out in 26 balls) sharing an unbroken stand of 97 to take the chequered flag.

And England's outstanding death bowling - with Jofra Archer and Adil Rashid conceding just six runs in two overs between them as the Indies sized up a 200-plus total - was just as influential.

Skipper Buttler (left) praised Bairstow's aggression against the spinners, which was a trump card from a batsman under fire from some quarters.

"He is a class player, he has been for a really long time," said Buttler. "That's what we decided to do - you just keep backing class players."

"He hasn't had many opportunities but that was a really mature, senior player's innings. With a lot of power, he scored at a great gear when the game was just in the balance."

Leg-spinner Rashid's analysis of 4-0-21-1 was easily the most economical on either side and Buttler purred: "We keep saying he's our most important player. He's got so much variation and so much threat of taking wickets and also restricting runs."



YADAV TO SAY THAT'S A GREAT KNOCK

SURYAKUMAR YADAV cracked a rapid half-century to set India up for a convincing 47-run win over Afghanistan.

Yadav (left) hit five fours and three sixes in his 28-ball 53 and shared in a crucial fifth-wicket partnership of 60 with Hardik Pandya as India recovered from 90-4 to post 181-8 in Barbados.

Afghanistan's reply never recovered from the loss of three wickets inside the first five overs and they ultimately fell well short, bowled out for 134, as the impressive Jasprit Bumrah claimed 3-7.

Yadav said: "A lot of hard work and practice has gone into this. A lot of routine and process. I'm very clear about what to do when I go out. You need to know what the game plan is. Keep the team first when you go out there."

India had made a sluggish start with Rashid Khan (3-26) instrumental.

The situation changed as Yadav and Pandya (32 from 24 balls) came together before Axar Patel's quick 12 further bolstered the total.

Afghanistan struggled in response and were always struggling after being reduced to 23-3.

Azmatullah Omarzai hit 26 and Najibullah Zadran scored 19, but the outcome was determined long before the finish as Arshdeep Singh (2-34) and Kuldeep Yadav (2-32) also shone.

Everton have Tim on way in



BY CHRIS McKENNA
EVERTON are on the verge of landing Aston Villa midfielder Tim Iroegbunam – with winger Lewis Dobbin expected to go the other way.
The deal for Iroegbunam (above) will be worth around £9million if it gets finalised, while Villa are in talks with the Toffees over Dobbin.
With Dobbin being a home-grown player, it would be a transfer which would ease Everton's PSR issues.
If they sell the 21-year-old to Aston Villa, which is now looking likely, the move could have a knock-on effect for Manchester United.
United are trying to agree a deal for Jarrad Branthwaite, but the Toffees will be under less pressure to sell the £70m-rated centre-back if the Dobbin sale goes through.

I'VE HAD TO KOP EARLY SLOT ON TV

BY CHRIS McKENNA
ARNE SLOT has joked that Liverpool are opening their Premier League campaign with an early kick-off – thanks to former manager Jurgen Klopp's moans about 12.30pm starts.
The new Kop boss (below) was asked about the Reds' lunchtime clash away at Ipswich on August 17.
Klopp was constantly angered by the amount of times the Reds were picked to play in the TV time, but Slot is not concerned as it is the first game and not after a midweek Champions League match.



He said: "They've told me it's going to be 12.30. from what I know, Jurgen complained a lot about this, so probably they thought, 'With Jurgen out, let's put them at 12.30 again!' "Against a promoted team, so it's going to be special for them as well."

Bentancur 'sorry' for Son joke

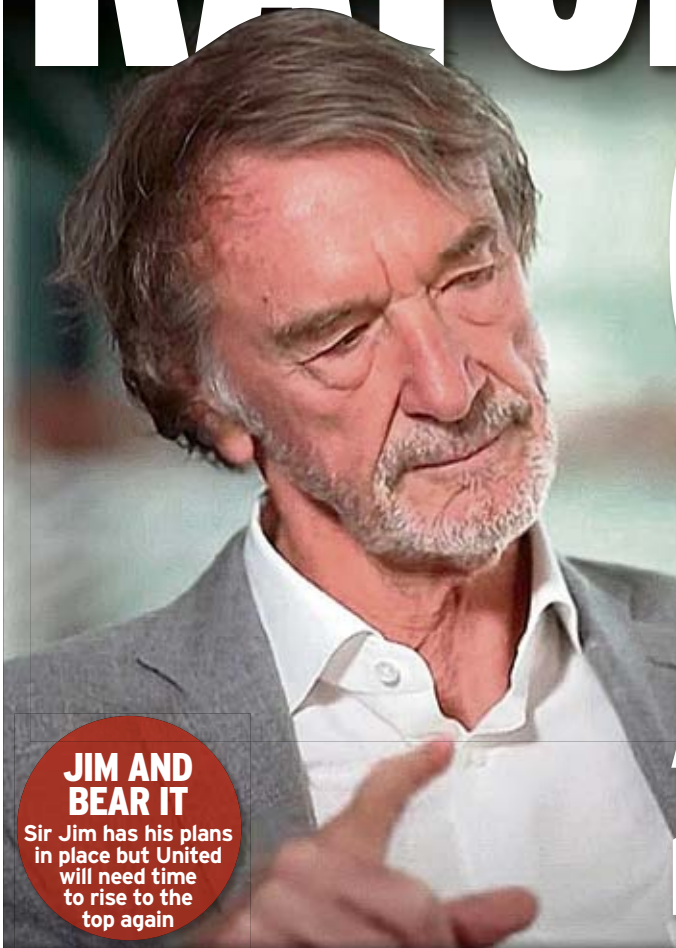


HEUNG-MIN SON said Rodrigo Bentancur has apologised for making a racist joke about him during a TV interview in Uruguay, adding he believes his Tottenham team-mate "made a mistake".
Anti-discrimination charity Kick It Out said it had received a "significant number" of complaints regarding Bentancur's comments which targeted the South Korea star.
Spurs have been "providing assistance" to ensure the Uruguayan is educated in the club's diversity, equality and inclusion objectives.
Son (above) said: "I've spoken with Lolo (Bentancur). He made a mistake, he knows this and has apologised."
Bentancur posted: "Sonny brother! I apologise to you for what happened, it was just a very bad joke."



UNITED FANS BE PATIENT

RATCLIFFE GETS REAL



JIM AND BEAR IT
Sir Jim has his plans in place but United will need time to rise to the top again

'We want to rival Madrid, but it will take us years'



UEFA SAY 'NO' TO A NICE DEAL

BY DAVID McDONNELL
MANCHESTER UNITED co-owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe has slammed UEFA for blocking the club's signing of Nice defender Jean-Clair Todibo.

As well as controlling football operations at United, Ratcliffe also owns French club Nice, with UEFA determined to take a hard line on multi-club ownership.

Under their rules, a single owner is not allowed to have control over two clubs competing in the same competition, with United and Nice due to be taking part in the Europa League next season.

That means Ratcliffe must place Nice into a 'blind trust', but the billionaire INEOS owner has criticised UEFA for preventing clubs who belong to the same group from trading players.

Although Ratcliffe declined to name the player involved, it is known to be £35million-rated Todibo (above), who United wanted to sign this summer, but they have been told by UEFA that any such deal is prohibited.

"They've said we can sell him to another Premiership club, but we can't sell to Manchester United," said Ratcliffe.

"But that's not fair on the player and I don't see what that achieves."

COMMENT

BY DAVID McDONNELL
@DiscoMirror



SIR JIM RATCLIFFE was refreshingly candid about how long it will take to make Manchester United competitive again and able to compete for the big prizes.

Ratcliffe, now in charge of football operations at United after spending £1.3billion to acquire a 28 percent stake in the club, reckons it will take at least three years to turn the team's fortunes around.

Last season was a nadir for United and their fans, with a lowest-ever Premier League finish of eighth and a meek group stage exit from the Champions League.

A miserable campaign did end on a high with victory over local rivals Manchester City in the FA Cup, which clinched United a Europa

League place. That win effectively kept Erik ten Hag (below) in a job, only after Ratcliffe and his coterie spoke to a host of potential replacements, before deciding to stick with the Dutchman – for now at least.

Despite the euphoria of the FA Cup and the revenue streams European football will bring next season, Ratcliffe knows United have a huge task to get to the level of City, Arsenal and the rest of the best teams in Europe.

In a wide-ranging interview with Bloomberg, INEOS billionaire Ratcliffe outlined his strategy for making United

great again. And he warned United's fanbase there will be no quick fixes as he and his team begin their overhaul of the club and tackle their first transfer window.

"I'm not confident that we'll solve all the problems in the first transfer window," said Ratcliffe. "It will take two or three summer windows to get to a better place."

United are restricted – like all clubs – in what the can spend this summer because of the Premier League's profit and sustainability rules.

Their initial budget of around £50 million needs to be supplemented by player sales to

raise the revenue to improve the squad with new signings.

With those spending limits and with Ratcliffe still assembling his leadership team, he is acutely aware that United's re-emergence as a major football force will be a long-term process.

"There's room for improvement everywhere we look at Manchester United, and we will improve everything," said Ratcliffe.

"We want to be where Real Madrid is today, but it'll take time."

With three European Cups to Real Madrid's 15, United have some way to go.

But turning United into a side able to compete with the likes of Real is Ratcliffe's sole aim, with the focus now on the football side at a club where business, revenue and commercial targets have been allowed to take precedence for far too long.



COOPER READY TO OUTFOX THE PREM

BY NEIL MOXLEY
STEVE COOPER is back in management at Leicester City and is ready for anything.

The 44-year-old succeeded Enzo Maresca following a lengthy recruitment process as he returned to the frontline seven months after his sacking by Nottingham Forest. Cooper (right) admitted 'great

challenges' lay ahead and said his experience with the Foxes east Midlands rivals – by keeping the club in the top-flight against a backdrop of a huge player turnover – would be valuable.

However, Cooper said he wanted to unite the club and move forward together. He said: "The work starts now on

building towards a successful Premier League season.

"The aim is to make Leicester an established Premier League club, one that can look forward to the future with pride and ambition.

"We have to show our fans we are ready to adapt to a new level after a season in the Championship. I know my

experience will be valuable in helping that evolution.

"My job is to bring everyone along, players, staff and fans.

"Great challenges lie ahead but I get the feeling Leicester thrives in these moments."

Leicester are still at loggerheads with the authorities over profit and sustainability issues.





ANDY DUNN

Britain's best Sports Writer

More to Rory than the glory

FOR a player of such phenomenal talent, a return of four Majors in 62 attempts could, understandably, be seen as disappointing.

But there are accolades that should counterbalance that statistic.

Rory McIlroy is the golfer people pay to watch. Rory McIlroy is box office. Rory McIlroy hits shots his

fellow professionals would not even contemplate.

Yes, it was gut-wrenching – for McIlroy (left) and most viewers – when that tricky four-footer slid past the cup on the 18th green at Pinehurst last Sunday. But it happens.

And greatness does not have to be measured solely by a trophy yardstick.

Tiger Woods' value to the game of golf is so great, the PGA Tour has given him a lifetime exemption to their blue chip events.

And while he will never get close to Tiger's haul of 15 Majors, one day, the same honour will be given to McIlroy.



JUST one very minor gripe from what is already a very exciting tournament out here. All that stuff about German efficiency? It's b***s.**

» ONE of the more thrilling sights of the sporting summer so far has been Jofra Archer operating at full tilt in the T20 World Cup.

And now they have a bit of form, there is a chance Archer might help England defend their title.

Which would be nice. But what would be nicer is if Archer (left) can stay fit and make a return to Test cricket in 2025.

Let's face it, England fans would love to see Archer bowling England to a T20 World Cup triumph... but they would love to see him scaring the life out of the Aussies in the Ashes at the end of next year a hell of a lot more.



Liverpool and Slot need to move **Swiftly** on from Klopp

THANKS to a blockbuster concert, Jurgen Klopp - resplendent in a pink cowboy hat - had reappeared at Anfield before Arne Slot had officially settled into his Liverpool seat.

As Taylor Swift is so fond of telling us, breaking up is hard to do.

Via the club's media channels, Slot was officially introduced to Liverpool fans on Wednesday and, inevitably, spent a chunk of his first interview talking about Klopp.

To be fair, that was unavoidable. How could he not mention a predecessor who was one of the most charismatic managers there the Premier League has seen?

And it would have been grossly negligent of Slot not to ask Klopp (above) for advice.

To not pick the brains of a guy who had managed the club for almost nine years would be plain silly. But that

should be it. No more Klopp talk. It is over, it is finished.

The supporters will have a role in that regard and they have a reputation for giving fulsome backing to a new manager.

Slot will need it.

Klopp's long, emotional goodbye camouflaged the tricky issues that now face the new Liverpool manager.



I guess I am officially a 'Swiftie' 🤠

Before dropping out of a thrilling three-way title battle, Liverpool were probably over-achieving, and the final six weeks of the season appeared to confirm that theory.

Sure, Slot inherits a squad that won a trophy last season – albeit the Carabao Cup – and finished third in the Premier League, amassing a very creditable 82 points.

But he is also inheriting a squad that won only four of their final 10 matches of the season.

More significantly, he is

inheriting a squad that has contract issues.

Arguably, there are no players more important to Liverpool than Mohamed Salah, Virgil van Dijk and Trent Alexander-Arnold.

All three have a final year of their contracts left to run.

If that is not alarming to Slot and Anfield executives, it should be.

Out here in Germany, 34-year-old Kyle Walker told us earlier this week he intends to stay at the top of his game for many years to come, highlighting the increasing longevity of elite footballers' careers.

Salah turned 32 last week – is astonishingly robust – and, if he wants to, could remain as Liverpool's attacking talisman for at least three more seasons.

But the Reds would have to come up with the money for a suitably lucrative deal, something they are not overly keen on doing.

The same goes for Van Dijk, who will be 33 next month. The Dutchman could run Liverpool's defence for another three seasons.

Alexander-Arnold's case is slightly different. If he is



SHAKE IT OFF

New Anfield boss Slot must put Klopp era in the past for sake of Reds' future

considering not signing a new deal – perhaps Real Madrid might suggest going there on a free in the summer of 2025 – then Liverpool will surely have to play hardball and put him up for sale now.

But, realistically, the cards are in his hands.

What all three might do – in fact, what seems most likely

– is wait and see how they think Slot's regime will pan out.

That will surely be a factor in their plans.

And to give Slot's regime the best chance of success, it is already time to remind everyone the Klopp era is over.

After all, even Taylor Swift moves on.

Obscure Brit wildcards have it too easy

LIAM BROADY, Henry Searle, Billy Harris, Jan Choinski, Jacob Fearnley, Arthur Fery and Paul Jubb.

Let's face it, barring Broady (right) – who has reached the third round in each of the last two years – these sportsmen are household names only in their own households. Nothing wrong



with that, of course. But all seven will be given at least £60,000 by the All England Club in a couple of weeks' time.

In case you didn't know, these seven Brits are all tennis players.

None of them has a ranking that is high enough to give them a

place at Wimbledon on merit. But the All England Club have given them wildcards and even if they lose their first round matches, they will walk away with sixty grand.

Nice work if you can get it but whether it helps foster the right mentality – that desperate hunger to improve – is another matter.



» THE Formula One roadshow has arrived back in Europe and the Spanish Grand Prix is the first of three on successive Sundays, culminating in the British Grand Prix at Silverstone on July 7. And one driver with a point to prove is Lewis Hamilton. This season, Hamilton (left) has been out-qualified by team-mate George Russell at eight of

the nine races. And if he is being bettered by Russell, what chance will he have when the ferociously quick Charles Leclerc is his team-mate at Ferrari next season?

Hamilton insists he can still be the best on the grid, even at the age of 39.

On the evidence of this season, that is looking increasingly unlikely.

SLOVENIA 1 SERBIA 1 GROUP C
FROM ALLIANZ ARENA



LAST-GASP LUKA PROVES SERBIA ARE NO QUITTERS

BY RYAN TAYLOR
SERBIA fought to keep their Euro 2024 dream alive in Munich - hours after threatening to quit the tournament altogether.

Luka Jovic (above) snatched a last-gasp 96th-minute equaliser to salvage a point against Slovenia as stone-faced boss Dragan Stojkovic (below) hailed his team's battling spirit.

Stojkovic said: "First of all, Serbs do not die so easily. We do not give up and will not give up."

"We believed all the way until the end and the result came as a reward for believing."

Earlier in the day, the Serbian FA released a statement condemning UEFA's failure to punish Albania and Croatia supporters for anti-Serb chants in Hamburg.

They claim both sets of fans were singing: "Kill, kill, kill the Serb" during the second half of Wednesday's pulsating 2-2 thriller.

Serbia's general secretary Jovan Surbatovic said: "What happened is scandalous and we will ask UEFA for sanctions, even if it means not continuing the competition."

Head coach Stojkovic refused to be drawn on the saga, claiming he wasn't aware of the statement.

He added: "Please, ask me something about the game. It's not my intention to talk about this, it's not important."

"Honestly speaking I didn't read anything. Believe it or not but I didn't." Serbia had been left to rue so many

opportunities when Slovenia took the lead on 69 minutes.

Timi Max Elsnik, who fired against the woodwork in the first-half, sent a dangerous ball flying across the face of goal for right-back Zan Karnicnik to turn home.

But Serbia continued to create chances at will.

Al-Hilal's Aleksandar Mitrovic and Juventus striker Dusan Vlahovic could not buy a goal despite hitting a combined 58 for their respective clubs this season.

Mitrovic had nodded one wide of the mark at the back post before Jan Oblak made two

top stops either side of half-time to deny the ex-Fulham frontman.

Then Jovic showed his team-mates how it was done, glancing

home from a corner to break Slovenian hearts as Matjaz Kek's players fell to their knees in despair.

Klaus Gjasula's 95th-minute equaliser for Albania against Croatia was the latest goal in European Championships history but that record barely lasted 24 hours.


SLOVENIA: Oblak 8, Karnicnik 8, Drkusic 6, Bijol 7, Janza 6, Stojanovic 6 (Verbic 76, 6), Gnezda Cerin 6, Elsnik 8 (Brekalo 90), Mlakar 6 (Stankovic 5), Sporar 6, Sesko 7 (Lovric 76).

SERBIA: Rajkovic 7, Veljkovic 6, Milenkovic 6, Pavlovic 6, Zivkovic 6 (Birmancevic 81), Ilic 6, Lukic 6 (Milinkovic-Savic 64, 5), Mladenovic 6 (Gacinovic 46, 6), Tadic 6 (Samardzic 81), Mitrovic 6, Vlahovic 4 (Jovic 64, 8).

MAN OF THE MATCH: Timi Max Elsnik - Great engine and drive in midfield, hit post then assisted winner.

REFEREE: Istvan Kovacs (Romania).






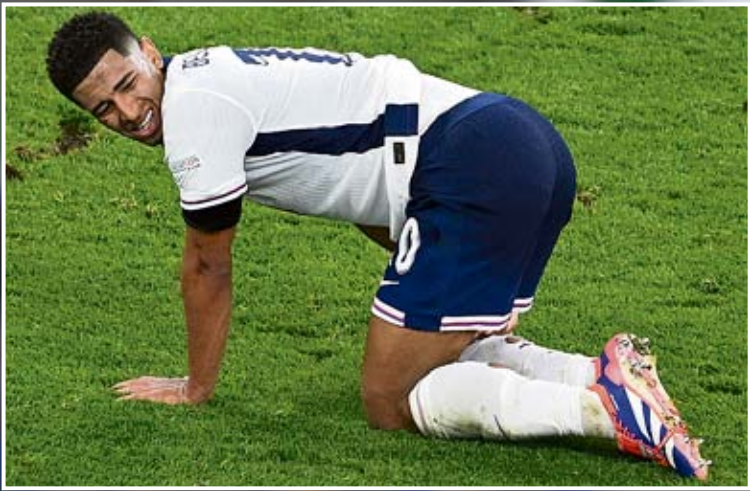
DENMARK


Hjulmand 34


ENGLAND

Kane 18







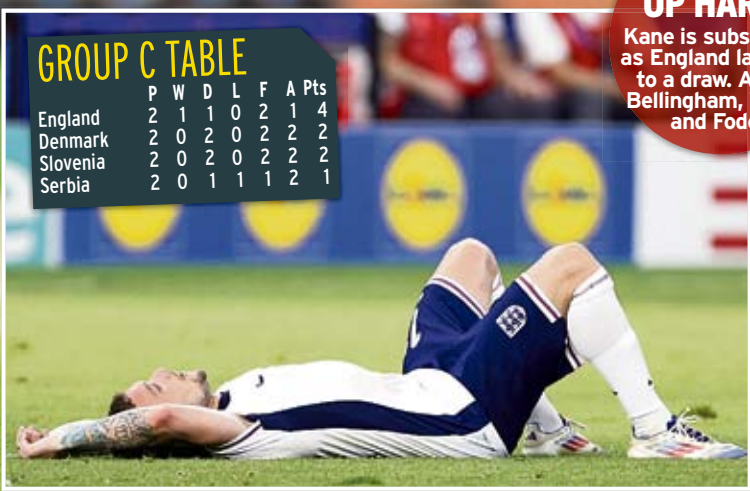


GROUP C TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Denmark	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Slovenia	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Serbia	2	0	1	1	1	2	1

TIME'S UP HARRY

Kane is substituted as England laboured to a draw. Above: Bellingham, Walker and Foden



The Dane pain of Kane was clear to all... even himself

GROUP C
FRANKFURT ARENA



GARETH: BLAME ME FOR MESS

FROM BACK PAGE
responsibility. I'm in control and I have to find solutions.

"The players are giving everything. If anything, they care too much.

"We can't make excuses. We have to accept responsibility. We didn't pass the ball with any intensity and we conceded possession too easily.

"That led to an anxious performance and we have to be better if we want to progress to the latter stages.

"Our press wasn't intense enough - we have got to find a way of being more compact than we have in the last three halves of football.

"We are disappointed with the performance levels in the first two games, and now we've got to analyse them in depth and address the issues."

Southgate subbed Trent Alexander-Arnold and attacking trio Kane (top), Phil Foden and Bukayo Saka in a bid to turn the game.

More than 20,000 England fans were in the Frankfurt Arena - and made their anger clear towards the end.

After walking across the pitch to thank supporters for their backing, Southgate suggested the tournament favourites are struggling to cope with expectation levels.

He added: "We need the fans and I will always face them. They've been brilliant in the stadiums and I can completely understand their frustration.

"We have to accept the environment we're in and the expectations around us - and we have to walk towards that challenge.

"To achieve extraordinary things, you have to go through some difficult moments. Today was a difficult moment.

"We have to stay calm and find good solutions."

Denmark coach Kasper Hjulmand said: "I can't say we are disappointed but it's a shame because there was a result out there that we could have got."

AS you would expect, Harry Kane took it well, unfastening his armband and jogging smartly towards Kyle Walker to hand it over.

But it must have hurt. Being hooked with a good 20 minutes left probably always hurts.

Being hooked when you are the England captain and record scorer - at a stage when your team is hunting a goal - has to be particularly painful.

And what must have hurt Kane most of all is that it was the right call.

In fact, by that point, it was a no-brainer.

It was an obvious shout even though he had scored the 64th goal of his England career and his 13th in tournament football - a goal that eventually meant Gareth Southgate's team took away a point their performance did not deserve.

But of all the worrying, error-ridden, below-par individual displays in this desperately disappointing England



ANDY DUNN

Britain's best Sports Writer

showing, Kane's was one of the most eye-catching.

And not just because his uncharacteristically loose pass gave Denmark the possession which led to Morten Hjulmand's equaliser.

After being gifted the effort that now means he has scored in four successive major tournaments, Kane looked off the pace throughout, laboured and ineffective.

In the win over Serbia in last Sunday's Group C opener, Kane had 24 touches. In this grim draw against the Danes, Kane had 22 touches.

Dropping deep into territory in which Jude Bellingham was

already wandering aimlessly, Kane barely posed a threat after capitalising on Kyle Walker's good work and a couple of diversions off Danish defenders for his routine finish.

And against robust opposition, Kane seemed to find it something of a physical struggle.

Kane was struggling with a back injury ahead of Bayern Munich's Champions League semi-final second leg in Madrid. And, on reflection, Thomas Tuchel thought it might have been a mistake to play him.

Kane then missed Bayern's final game of the Bundesliga season but was keen to dispel

any fears he might be struggling when he joined up with England. That continues to be the party line.

But contributions such as this one make you wonder if he really is anywhere near 100 per cent sharp.

Not that many England players looked sharp in this disjointed, painful, laborious slog towards a point that leaves them top of their qualifying table.

Bar a decent late pass for substitute Ollie Watkins, Bellingham had such a poor game that it was actually unfathomable. It was hard to find a reason for it.

There was nothing Ballon D'Or about it, that is for sure

and it was something of a surprise that he stayed on the field when Southgate made the raft of changes that included the skipper's removal.

Bellingham's pass for Watkins gave the Aston Villa striker a sneaky chance of a late winner but Kasper Schmeichel saved.

Still, Watkins was lively enough in the quarter of a game he was given to at least suggest he IS a viable alternative to Kane.

Not that Southgate would ever think about relegating a fit Kane to the bench. The fact remains that he is England's main scoring hope and this team's leader.

He was out there at the end, leading the applause for the disgruntled fans and shaking the hand of every squad-mate.

But there is no escaping one fact. Right now, England have too many underperforming blue-chip players.

And Harry Kane is most definitely one of them.





DENMARK
Hjulmand 34

ENGLAND
Kane 18

DANE IN THE NECK

Southgate's stuttering stars made to suffer as woeful Three Lions are held to a point



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II TAKE TIME TO THINK

GROUP C
FRANKFURT ARENA

RATINGS by SIMON MULLOCK
mirror.co.uk/sport/football

ENGLAND

PICKFORD 6
A lapse of concentration almost let in Eriksen. Will be disappointed to be beaten from long range by Hjulmand

WALKER 7
Picked Kristiansen's pocket to provide the cross which brought Kane's opening goal

STONES 7
Forming an effective defensive understanding with Guehi and stayed strong when Danes were on top

GUEHI 7
Crucial first-half block and brilliant tackle to make up for a late mistake. One of few England bright spots

TRIPPIER 7
Did well defensively but the natural right-footer is unable to deliver his usual threat from the left

ALEXANDER-ARNOLD 5
Gamble of playing him in midfield hasn't worked. Sacrificed after 54 minutes as his energy levels dropped

RICE 6
Offered protection but unable to get himself on the ball to build play like he loves to do for his club

SAKA 5
Starved of the ball and subsequently unable to test his full-back. Had brave looping header drop just wide

BELLINGHAM 5
Struggled to be an influence in the game and quickly became frustrated. Lucky not to be subbed

FODEN 6
High and wide with a couple of first-half efforts before slamming a 25-yard shot against the post

KANE 6
Now England's record tournament goalscorer (13) but another sluggish performance by the England captain

SUBS
Gallagher **BOOKED** (A-Arnold 54).....6
Bowen (Foden 69).....5
Eze (Saka 69).....5
Watkins (Kane 69).....5

DENMARK

SCHMEICHEL.....6
ANDERSEN.....8
CHRISTENSEN.....8
VESTERGAARD **BOOKED**.....7
MAEHLE **BOOKED**.....7
HJULMAND.....7
HOJBJERG.....7
KRISTIANSEN.....5
ERIKSEN.....8
HOJLUND.....5
WIND.....5

SUBS
Damsgaard (Wind 57).....5
Bah (Kristiansen 57).....5
Poulsen (Hojlund 67).....5
Olsen (Eriksen 82)
Norgaard (Hjulmand 82)

mirror.co.uk/sport/football

MORTEN OUT OF 10
Hjulmand celebrates after scoring a stunning equaliser for Denmark

FROM **JOHN CROSS** in Frankfurt **THIS time, there is no other way of dressing it up.**

England were so poor and, after all the pre-tournament excitement and expectation, you could not possibly back them as potential Euros winners after this performance.

Gareth Southgate led his players over to the Three Lions fans after the final whistle and, as they clapped the ever loyal support, you felt they should have been apologising.

No wonder there was some booing at the final whistle. The supporters deserved better.

Make no mistake, England were fortunate to get a draw and a point means if they beat Slovenia next Tuesday then they will top the group. All is not lost.

But what England have lost is optimism and momentum. They looked tired, lethargic and without a plan. Denmark were the better team as they had more hunger and desire.

England's big players did not turn up. Even Harry Kane got substituted. Jude Bellingham was brilliant against Serbia but got so frustrated against Denmark. Nothing went right for him.

Kane was gifted the 18th-minute opener (left inset) but England could not hold onto that lead for long. This must be a brutal wake-up call – otherwise they will be going home pretty quickly.

This felt like the bad old days from before Southgate's reign when England flopped and did not do themselves justice at tournaments. They certainly did not turn up in Frankfurt.

England were woeful at times. This was a performance which should send Southgate back to the drawing board.

The system, the players and the tactics just did not work.

Trent Alexander-Arnold is just not working in midfield. His passing was poor and he offers no protection to his defence.

Even Declan Rice, normally so reliable, was caught dribbling out of his own penalty box. Kane was substituted with 20 minutes left because he had run out of steam – which was a familiar story through the whole team.

Southgate did not seem to be able to make the right substitutions and was not brave enough to make the most obvious one of all.

If it is not working – and it was not for Bellingham (circle) – then sometimes you even have to take off your best player.

The crazy thing was that England were gift-wrapped a goal. Kyle Walker robbed Victor Kristiansen, put over a low cross which was deflected and there was Kane to score his 64th international goal in 93 caps.

But rather than try to press home their advantage, they sat back. England were a shambles.

Kane's poor clearance fell to Kristiansen and then Morten Hjulmand rifled in a low shot from 25 yards off the post (celebrating, left inset).

No one closed him down and no one pressed all night. That is what happens when you use players out of position.

Half-time could not come quick enough for England. They were hanging on.

Southgate hooked Alexander-Arnold early in the second half and replaced him with Conor Gallagher's energy and work-rate.

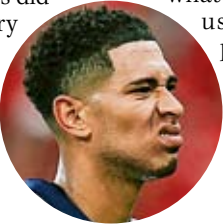
England's balance was immediately better and the tide began to turn a little. Bukayo Saka hit the side netting. Phil Foden smashed a low 20-yard drive against the post.

Southgate had seen enough by 70 minutes. Saka, Kane and Foden were all taken off for Jarrod Bowen, Eberechi Eze and Ollie Watkins.

They at least brought more energy but England could not find a way. And now they head to Cologne needing to find some answers pretty quickly.

Southgate looked lost on the touchline. Out of ideas and maybe out of time.

And, worst of all, England's players looked tired on the back of a long, hard season. The perennial English problem.



DENMARK	ENGLAND
48% POSSESSION	52%
7 SHOTS ON TARGET	4
4 SHOTS OFF TARGET	6
4 CORNERS	2
4 OFFSIDE	0
13 FOULS	5

0 3	CARDS	1 0
Referee: Artur Soares Dias		

GROUP C TABLE							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Denmark	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Slovenia	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Serbia	2	0	1	1	1	2	1



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HJUL OF A MESS

Disjointed England are punished by Morten and Southgate says: Blame me



FRANKLY, IT WAS POOR
Rice and Southgate (right) look gutted after England struggled in Frankfurt

From **SIMON MULLOCK** in Frankfurt
GARETH SOUTHGATE told the nation to blame him after England were jeered by fans following another insipid Euros display.

The Three Lions are two points clear at the top of Group C, but were lucky to escape with a draw after being outplayed and outfought by Denmark.

Harry Kane gave England a dream start when he fired home in the 18th minute. It was Kane's 13th tournament goal – a record for an Englishman.

But the captain was at fault in the 39th minute when his poor clearance led to Morten Hjulmand (left) blasting Denmark level.

Southgate admitted: "The team didn't function and that's my

TURN TO PAGE 61



INSIDE: THE LIVE ACTION IN YOUR EURO '24 PULLOUT



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PUZZLES

06.2024



21:33
mins

Solutions in Monday's Daily Mirror

~~A~~~~B~~~~C~~DEFGHIJKLMNOP~~Q~~~~R~~STUVWXYZ

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
				C			R			A		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

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	5		20		20	19	15	13	19	11	22	12
26	6	13	8			9		21		7		19
	26		11	20	10	19	5	22		7	13	18
10	11	1	1					13		8		5
			19		4	22	11	8	2	16	4	12
25	6	13	18	26		6		18		19		25
19		18			11	14	19			9		11
7		20		13		16		5	23	19	11	18
11	23	23	4	21	16	5	19		11			
24		6		12					8	6	5	3
11	8	5		16	18	2	11	25	17		6	
A	R	C										
22		3		23		13			18	11	9	17
22	13	4	4	23	16	18	7		14		19	


Which one of our three definitions is correct?

- 1 Of low intelligence
- 2 Chisel with hollow blade
- 3 Boy-servant

**Solutions in tomorrow's
Daily Mirror**

Scribble pad

Arrow Words are like crosswords, but the clues are printed inside squares on the grid. Write your answers in the blank squares in the direction indicated by the arrows. **Solutions in tomorrow's Daily Mirror**

Cautious Pictured, McCall		Broad		Lamp with a trans- parent case		Sheet of glass		Border		Emphasised						
						Adjust										
Butterfly, e.g.		Single European Act (abbr.)		Religious sister Shout applause				Foreign		Narrow horizontal surface						
						Bird of prey										
Pencil rubber	Became fully aware of		Jude, song Hardly				Untruths European country									
						Locates Cardinal number										
Aircraft detection system		Middle						Obtain Past tense of tear					Droop Give medical care to		Crouch pictured	
					Desired Marry							Faucet				
Faulty shot in snooker		Scorch		Was victorious				oneself, work hard		Big	Strong impulse					
						Freight Organ of sight						Liquid measure		Manage		
Diocese Cures				Peered (anag.)							Fine open fabric Furniture items					
					Incomplete		Ambassador's residence		Magazine boss							
Arid				Pare					Skill				Slanting type		Roof tiles	
				Snatch		Enigmas										
								Endearingly pretty	Take notice of	Harden				Support		
				Disposable hanky		Is painful						Amateur Boxing Association (abbr.)				
										Brilliant display						
				Engaged in games		Guide								Station Zebra, film		
										Large bags						



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Aries March 21-April 20

You may have to accept that in order to increase your potential of success you need to gain more experience and increase your degrees of education. As skilled and proficient as you may be, there are some who question your qualifications, much to your own frustration.

For more call **0905 789 4171** (80p/min + network access charge)

Taurus April 21 - May 21

An offer put to you will mean that there has to be a quick change of plans. Friends will be surprised by how speedily you react to this. It is your chance to prove that you can be flexible when the need arises. You are determined to make a success of whatever you take on.

For more call **0905 789 4172** (80p/min + network access charge)

Gemini May 22 - June 21

You're tempted to pull out of a time-consuming project. But is this just taking the easy way out? Remind yourself of everything you have done so far. If you end this commitment now, someone else will end up taking the credit for your past hard work. Keep going until you get to the end.

For more call **0905 789 4173** (80p/min + network access charge)

Cancer June 22 - July 23

Someone will belittle your contributions to a group effort. The reason they are being so critical is because they feel secretly threatened. Believe in yourself. Positive thoughts will bring positive results. A valuable contact will give you advice on how to advance your career.

For more call **0905 789 4174** (80p/min + network access charge)

Leo July 24 - August 23

The impression you make on senior colleagues will improve your prospects for promotion. Someone in power needs to see how you handle a difficult situation. Your ability to take charge, lead and delegate will be what determines your direction even in your life away from work.

For more call **0905 789 4175** (80p/min + network access charge)

Virgo Aug 24 - Sept 23

A job you have taken on is difficult and demanding. Although you prefer to manage on your own, without some help you will become tired and irritable. Teaming up with a talented friend or colleague will take you closer to your goals. There are advantages in making this a joint effort.

For more call **0905 789 4176** (80p/min + network access charge)

Libra Sept 24-Oct 23

You're generally easy going and will do anything for anyone but not today. There are plans you have that you will not set aside for the sake of pleasing other people. If someone is upset about this they are not a true friend. They should accept it is time you put your own needs first.

For more call **0905 789 4177** (80p/min + network access charge)

Scorpio Oct 24 - Nov 23

You and a partner take a very different approach to the way you deal with money. You handle finances in a far more cautious and careful way. Some in-depth thinking is necessary before you decide on how to move forward. Advice from a financial consultant is worth following.

For more call **0905 789 4178** (80p/min + network access charge)

Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 21

You have some weighty matters to consider. That's why the fewer distractions there are around you, the happier you will feel. Someone you have great respect for will make you an interesting offer. You might look on this as repayment for help they once received from you.

For more call **0905 789 4179** (80p/min + network access charge)

Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 20

You had hoped to make better progress but your confidence will dip when you come up against some difficult people. You are underestimating your capabilities if you allow others to tell you what to do when you are perfectly capable of handling a difficult task on your own.

For more call **0905 789 4180** (80p/min + network access charge)

Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

You are ready to make a fresh start in areas of your life that lack challenge. You need something new to excite you. Volunteering for a large charity will not only mean you are supporting a worthy cause but this could open the way for you to break into a new career field.

For more call **0905 789 4181** (80p/min + network access charge)

Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

If you're looking for a job, starting on a course of study or needing something new to do, then choose an occupation that stimulates your imagination. A change of scenery would also be beneficial. Bright colours, pleasing scents and enchanting places will get your creative juices flowing.

For more call **0905 789 4182** (80p/min + network access charge)

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CARTOONS



Summer dinners Good Food daily recipe to collect

Summer chicken stew

One-pots aren't just for winter. Try this fresh summer version with leeks, green beans, peas, new potatoes and tender chicken thighs

PREP: 10 MINS
COOK: 55 MINS
EASY
SERVES 4

- 2tbsp olive oil
- 500g leeks, finely sliced
- 2 plump garlic cloves, finely sliced
- 2 thyme sprigs, leaves picked
- 8 chicken thighs, skinless and boneless
- 500g new potatoes, larger ones quartered, smaller ones halved
- 350ml chicken stock
- 200g green beans
- 350g frozen petit pois
- Lemon wedges, to serve

1 Heat the oil in a large casserole dish over a medium heat. Add the leeks, garlic and thyme, cover and cook gently for 10 mins, stirring occasionally. Season the chicken and tip into the dish with the potatoes.

2 Turn up the heat, pour in the stock and bring to a simmer. Reduce the heat and allow to gently bubble with the lid on for 35 mins. Add the green beans and peas for the final 10 mins of cooking. Season to taste, then ladle into bowls or lipped plates with a squeeze of lemon.



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GROUP B TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Italy	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Albania	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Croatia	2	0	1	1	2	5	1

IT'S SPAIN SAILING

Spain's Alvaro Morata and Lamine Yamal (left) celebrate the winning goal (below)

BY CHARLIE GORDON
RICCARDO CALAFIORI'S own goal was all that separated Spain and Italy in Group B's showpiece fixture at Euro 2024 last night.

The defender bundled into his own net shortly after the second-half restart to send Spain through to the knockout stages.

La Roja have already claimed two huge scalps, with Croatia and Italy both tasting defeat against Luis de la Fuente's in-form side.



**MBAPPE
CAN MASK
IN GLORY**

**HOLLAND v
FRANCE**
KICK-OFF 8PM

SEE
PAGE
4

MAMMA MIA

Cala-mity for Italians as own goal settles heavyweight clash and puts Spain into last 16



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DUDA: WE'RE READY TO DIG DEEP

SLOVAKIA v UKRAINE

GROUP E: Dusseldorf Arena
TODAY, KICK-OFF 2pm (BBC)



BY MARK JONES

SLOVAKIA are taking a lesson from recent history to ensure they do not get carried away with their victory over Belgium.

Three years ago at Euro 2020, they beat Poland 2-1 in their opening game in Saint Petersburg before going out at the group stage following defeats by Sweden and Spain.

But a win over Ukraine will ensure qualification for the knockout stages. "Of course that is the experience we

had (at Euro 2020)," said midfielder Ondrej Duda. "But sometimes football can be cruel, sometimes it can be beautiful, and even if we had lost the first game, we could still make it out of the group."

"We've started well but the last game is now in the past."

Coach Francisco Calzona has been trying to keep his players grounded after the win over the team ranked No.3 in the world.

"Our greatest quality is humility," he said. "We know that we always need to give 110 per cent because

we're a small nation and we really want to put a big smile on the faces of our people. We're delighted to have seen a huge wall of Slovak fans for the Belgium game, and we hope we can continue to give them something to smile about."

Ukraine are not giving up hope despite a 3-0 defeat to Romania in their opener.

Arsenal star Oleksandr Zinchenko said: "Games like that happen. We wouldn't be here if we didn't believe in ourselves. It's better to do more and say less."

SLOVAKIA:
Dubravka; Pekarik, Vavro, Skriniar, Hanco; Kucka, Lobotka, Duda; Schranz, Bozenik, Haraslín
UKRAINE: Lunin; Konopliia, Zabarnyi, Matviyenko, Zinchenko; Stepanenko, Shaparenko; Tsygankov, Sudakov, Mudryk; Dovbyk
REF: Michael Oliver (Eng)

MOR THAN ENOUGH

Alvaro Morata leads the Spanish celebrations after Calafiori's own goal



SPAIN

De la Fuente's stars into last 16 and looking dangerous after two great wins

GROUP B		
	SPAIN	1
	Calafiori og 55 ITALY	0

RICCARDO CALAFIORI'S calamitous own goal saw Spain take a second huge scalp in as many Euro 2024 games.

La Roja followed up their thumping of Croatia with a deserved 1-0 win over Italy in Gelsenkirchen to book their spot in the knockout rounds one game ahead of schedule.

And Luis de la Fuente (right)

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HELPING HAND...

Yamal and Williams starred for Spain but they needed an own goal to take the points



SPAIN		ITALY
57%	POSSESSION	43%
8	SHOTS ON TARGET	1
8	SHOTS OFF TARGET	3
5	CORNERS	2
0	OFFSIDE	1
16	FOULS	14
0	CARDS	2
3		0
Referee: Slavko Vincic		

REIGN SUPREME

saw no problem in talking up his side's prospects of lifting a fourth European title.

"There is nobody better than us," said the Spain boss. "We have good expectations if we continue doing what we're doing."

Nico Williams was Spain's standout performer last night as he played a key role in the game's only goal and terrorised Giovanni Di Lorenzo out wide.

The 21-year-old admits he picked the perfect time to produce his best ever display in the famous red shirt.

"I think that's my most complete performance with Spain and I hope to kick on and continue helping the team as

much as possible," Williams said.

"Things worked very well tonight and my team-mates helped me a great deal. These one-v-one situations are my forte. When you get past the full-back for the first time you start to grow in confidence and things become easier."

Rodri's composure in midfield combined with the youthful exuberance of Lamine Yamal and Williams out wide will make Spain a tough side to beat - even if Italy are a shadow of the team



that won the Euros at Wembley three years ago.

Williams' dazzling performance started with a pinpoint cross to Pedri, who called Gianluigi Donnarumma into action inside two minutes.

But the man-of-the-match didn't shower himself in glory by putting a header of his own wide from point-blank range moments later.

For all of Di Lorenzo's torment, Federico Dimarco didn't have it much easier on Italy's opposite flank. It took

18 minutes for teenager Yamal to draw the first 'Ole' with an eye-catching turn.

And it wasn't until just before the interval that the frustrated Italian fans witnessed a shot in anger, as Federico Chiesa blazed over at the near post.

It was a red frenzy again as play restarted, with Williams finding Marc Cucurella on the overlap to cross for Pedri, who buried his head in his hands after diverting the ball wide.

The winner was just around the corner, and it was no surprise to see the relentless Williams involved as his cross was glanced on by Alvaro Morata and then bundled into

his own net by Calafiori. Spain had their opponents on the ropes and proceeded to go for the big finish.

In a flurry of opportunities, Morata's long-range shot was palmed wide by Donnarumma and Robin Le Normand's header was cleared off the line from the resulting corner.

Yamal was growing in confidence and wanting a piece of the action, so the 16-year-old let fly from distance and missed the target by a whisker.

The Italians' good fortune kept them within range but Spain continued pounding on the door, again through Williams, who cut in from the

left and spectacularly clattered the crossbar.

All Italy could muster late on was a dangerous but unanswered cross from one substitute to another - Bryan Cristante to Mateo Retegui - as Spalletti's beaten men were sent back to the drawing board in humbling fashion.

SPAIN: Simon 6, Carvajal 7, Le Normand 5, Laporte 7, Cucurella 8, Pedri 6 (Torres 71), Rodri 6, Ruiz 6 (Merino 90), Yamal 8 (Baena 71), Morata 7 (Oyarzabal 78), Williams 9 (Ayoze 78)

ITALY: Donnarumma 7, Di Lorenzo 4, Bastoni 6, Calafiori 5, Dimarco 6, Frattesi 7 (Cambiaso 45, 5), Jorginho 5 (Cristante, 45, 6), Barella 6, Chiesa 5 (Zaccagni 64, 6), Scamacca 6 (Retegui 64, 6), Pellegrini 6 (Raspadori 82)

THE MASKED STINGER

Patched-up Mbappe could be back to take down Dutch



HOLLAND: Verbruggen; Dumfries, De Vrij, V Dijk, Ake; Schouten, Reijnders, Veerman; Malen, Depay, Gakpo.
FRANCE: Maignan; Kounde, Upamecano, Saliba, Hernandez; Kante, Rabiot; Dembele, Griezmann, Mbappe; Thuram
REF: Anthony Taylor (Eng)

GROUP D TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
France	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Poland	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Austria	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

NEW NOSE JOB

Kilian Mbappe trains in his face protector (Pic: French FA)

HOLLAND v FRANCE

GROUP D: Leipzig Stadium
TONIGHT, KICK-OFF 8pm (BBC)



BY ALEX RICHARDS
ON MONDAY night, his tournament looked to be over.

But this evening, Kylian Mbappe may well lead out France once again.

Despite leaving the field battered, bloody and with a broken nose (right) after Les Bleus' 1-0 win over Austria in Dusseldorf and being rushed to hospital, the soon-to-be Real Madrid superstar may well get the nod in Leipzig.

And Didier Deschamps is giving great thought to starting his main man when they meet Holland in one of the group stages' few true heavyweight clashes.

"I can confirm that Kylian is feeling better and all is evolving well to see him available," said Deschamps.

"Everything is going in the right direction after the major shock he had, and with the consequences of course. Yesterday, he was able

to go out and do a little activity. It's moving in the right direction to ensure that he can be available."

Mbappe trained on the pitch in Leipzig with his team-mates yesterday evening, wearing his newly-made protective mask.

It is a remarkable U-turn from Deschamps, who had insisted on Wednesday that he would not be risked.

But the power Mbappe boasts in his homeland and within the squad may well have persuaded him to wait until the very last second before deciding his starting line-up.

"I try to have discussions with the players, those who are starting, those who aren't," added the France boss.

"This includes Kylian. "I have to manage the group and I will manage the group."

Mbappe has made clear ever since the incident with Austria defender Kevin Danso that he wanted to return as soon as possible.

Leaving hospital at 1am on Tuesday morning, he took to social media asking "any ideas for

masks?". That was a sign of his desire to return to a tournament which he is desperate to win.

But discussions back at the French base camp had appeared to lead to the decision that he would sit it out.

However, having taken part in a light session wearing his mask on Wednesday night, and with the swelling having gone down considerably, more conversations were held.

Afterwards, he had taken to social media again to declare: "Without risks, there are no victories."

Team-mate Antoine Griezmann said: "Kylian is doing very well, his nose is less swollen."

"We will see how he is doing until the end. His feeling will be the deciding factor."

The Atletico Madrid striker also insisted whatever the decision, France will adapt.

"I think the entire team will have to adapt," Griezmann added.

"I really don't know if he's going to be playing."

"Having one of the best players in the world, or not, definitely changes things. We'll see how it goes."

"It doesn't matter what the team selection is."

"We always have to adapt, adapt to our opponents and attack their weak points."



RONALD TO KEEP HORST POWER IN RESERVE

BY JOSHUA PECK

RONALD KOEMAN refused to confirm whether Wout Weghorst would start - despite his starring role in Holland's opener.

Weghorst (inset) climbed off the bench against Poland to net a decisive goal, but the Burnley striker may begin the game against France as a substitute again.

"We try to get the most out of the squad

with every game," Dutch manager Koeman said.

"We have players who start, and those who finish. You will see where Wout fits into that plan."

"The lesson we learned against Poland was that we have to play at a high level for 90 minutes, not just 60. Also that you have to be patient."

Holland will be through to the round of 16 as group winners if

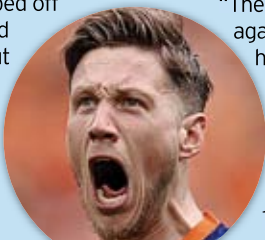
they beat France and Austria do not get three points against Poland.

Nathan Ake and Cody Gakpo shone for the Dutch down the left against the Poles, with Manchester City star Ake hoping to build on that relationship.

"I think we had a great connection," the defender said.

"He's very good, obviously. Technically, tactically, but also very smart defensively."

"The last few years he's been very important for the team."



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AUSTRIA: Pentz; Posch, Danso, Wober, Mwene; Seiwald, Laimer; Wimmer, Sabitzer, Baumgartner; Gregoritsch
REF: Halil Meler (Turkey)

POLE POSITION
Robert Lewandowski is back to lead from the front against Austria

IT'S SO NICE TO SEE LEW

Szczesny joy as Robert's back in attack

POLAND v AUSTRIA
GROUP D: Olympiastadion, Berlin
TONIGHT, KICK-OFF 5pm (ITV)

FROM MARK JONES
ROBERT LEWANDOWSKI is desperate to get his sixth major tournament up and running in Berlin today.

The Barcelona forward was forced to watch from the sidelines as a thigh injury kept him out of Poland's opening 2-1 defeat by Holland.

But he is set to feature against Austria in the German capital and could provide the missing spark for the Poles.

"The Austrians will not be happy that he is fit," said goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny (right).

"The more leaders we have on the pitch, the better. Robert's performance makes a big difference.

"I don't know if he's ready for 90 minutes, it's not for me to judge, but the fact that he's present on the pitch will add a lot of value to our

team. Lewandowski has been our best player for many years now. And in my opinion he is the best Polish player of all time.

"The fact that he is on the pitch will change our overall approach and our opponents' approach."

Austria captain Marcel Sabitzer knows the prolific forward well having shared a dressing room with him in the past.

And he is in no doubt what his side will need to do to stop a man who has scored 82 goals in 150 international appearances.

"At Bayern Munich I had the joy of playing together with Lewandowski for one year, therefore I know his qualities and that he's an exceptional player," said Sabitzer.

"For us as a team nothing will change, but you shouldn't give him too much space around the box and in the box, because he can score from any situation and we have to prevent that."

Austria boss Ralf Rangnick knows

the threat Lewandowski poses but won't let it dictate how he sets up.

"We expect that Lewandowski will be playing, but it doesn't change a lot with our way of playing," said Rangnick.

"Of course Lewandowski is THE player in Poland and everyone tries to pass to him, and I think that he will be playing."

"In the box he is dangerous and we have to make sure that we try to prevent him getting balls, and play the game according to our way of playing, and to control it."

"I think if we do it like this he won't be able to be in situations where he can show his qualities."

"Our aim was to qualify for the finals. We did that. Now we want to reach the knockouts and we always knew we'd have to beat at least one, maybe two teams in our group to achieve that."

"Our style of play isn't set up to try and get draws. We'll be playing for the win. Everything else is a game of hypotheticals which is not worth playing."

Poland boss Michal Probiez is likely to drop forward Adam Buksa, who scored Poland's goal in their defeat to the Dutch, in order to hand Lewandowski a start.



BERLIN OR BUST IN LAST-CHANCE SHOOT-OUT

FROM MARK JONES
IT COULD be a case of go hard or go home in Berlin, with many already placing Poland and Austria in the last-chance saloon.

Both sides impressed for periods of their respective opening matches against Holland and France.

But after one-goal defeats there and with tough games against those opponents to come, victory appears

the most likely way to secure one of the best third-placed finishes.

Does that place any added pressure on the game? Not according to Austria captain Marcel Sabitzer.

"Pressure is always there," said the midfielder (left), who featured in the Borussia Dortmund side which made it to the Champions League final at Wembley earlier

this month. "You can put yourself under pressure as well. But we have a way of coping with specific situations."

"We are always open and honest. We address things openly and clearly, and we've already said what we need to do to win the match."

"Poland will talk the same to each other, but if I think about the last match where we didn't play on a top level... if we follow our principles and intensities, then we have a good chance to win."



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BY CHARLIE GORDON
BILLY GILMOUR believes Scotland are good enough to make history this summer.

Eight World Cups and three European Championships prior to this one have produced 11 group-stage exits, meaning Scotland fans have never watched their team in a knockout tie at a major tournament.

But Steve Clarke's side will give themselves a great chance of providing that for the Tartan Army for the first time if they beat Hungary on Sunday.

Their display in Wednesday's 1-1 draw with Switzerland has whipped up a renewed sense of belief among Gilmour and his pals.

"We believe we can go and do it now in the last game," said the Brighton midfielder. "We've got a good enough group of players in there to go and make history."

Xherdan Shaqiri's superb long-range effort rescued a point for the Swiss, who went behind early on in Cologne.

Scott McTominay had put the Scots ahead with a deflected strike, and the Manchester United star is just as optimistic as Gilmour.

"We had good moments with the ball, we were patient with it," said McTominay. "We pressed them at the right times. There are real positives to take into the next game."

"This is what you play football for – these are the games where you have to leave it all on the pitch."

"If we keep playing with that hunger and desire, and have that belief, we can go and beat Hungary. I'm pretty sure we can do it."

"We were very passive [against Germany]. We were slow, not reacting to anything. We

know what we are capable of doing."

Scotland's best chance of making it to the knockouts is by finishing as one of the four best third-place teams.

With only one point on the board so far, a draw in their final game may not be enough.

And having won just once in 11 matches – against Gibraltar – the form book does not look good.

However, their Group A finale will come against a Hungary side who have no points.

Scottish hopes will be fuelled by Swiss manager Murat Yakin, who admitted Clarke's men were a trickier side to face than Hungary.

"If we compare the two teams Scotland caused us more problems, especially in the first half," Yakin said.

"It will be a hard-fought game between Scotland and Hungary."

Switzerland's qualification for the knockout stage is virtually assured – and they can even snatch top spot with a win against Germany this weekend.

Shaqiri stepped up to the plate against Scotland, and the former Liverpool player has backed himself to do the same against the tournament hosts.

"The big games were made for me," he said.

"I hope I will be remembered for that."

WE'VE SCOT TO BELIEVE

Gilmour sure team can make history

THUMBS UP TO US

Gilmour says Scotland are good enough to advance after draw against Swiss (below)

GROUP A TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	2	2	0	0	7	1	6
Switzerland	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Scotland	2	0	1	1	2	6	1
Hungary	2	0	0	2	1	5	0



GERMANS IN TUNE WITH EACH OTHER

FROM **SIMON MULLOCK** in Frankfurt
A EUROPOP hit from the Eighties has become the backing track to Germany's bid for glory – and skipper Ilkay Gundogan believes Julian Nagelsmann's team are now in perfect harmony.

Major Tom, a tune by Peter Schilling that was No.1 in the German charts in 1983, topped a poll before the tournament kicked off when fans were asked to vote for a song that would be the nation's answer to England's Sweet Caroline.

It has been belted out from the stands in Munich and Stuttgart as the hosts have stormed into the last 16 with comfortable victories against Scotland and Hungary.

And former Manchester City midfielder Gundogan (above) agrees with his manager that there is a feel-good factor sweeping around Germany.

He said: "I'm happy about the wins but also happy about the positive words from Julian. I hope it will continue like this and it will spark enthusiasm among the fans."

"The harmony in the team is really high and it's fun to play with this group of players."

"As captain, I can really feel the trust from the head coach, the coaching staff and my team-mates."

"I feel really comfortable in this team. We are now playing much more freely, which wasn't the case before because of some bad results."

"This feels more special for us to start the tournament like this. Things are now coming naturally."

Gundogan scored Germany's second goal in the 2-0 win against Hungary in Stuttgart on Wednesday after setting up the opener for the outstanding young talent Jamal Musiala.

Hungary complained that the Barcelona star got away with a foul but Gundogan was having none of it.

The 33-year-old said: "I was quite surprised that the Hungary team were angry. I don't know what it looked like on TV but I played in the Premier League for seven years and if they gave that as a foul in England everyone would have been laughing on the floor."

"We have reached a very good situation. We just need one win to top the group and we want to finish this opening stage by ranking first in every stadium. That would feel special."

Germany round off their Group A campaign against Switzerland in Frankfurt on Sunday.

REF'S CALL IS DOUBLE DUTCH TO ANGRY HUNGARY

BY **ALEX RICHARDS**

HUNGARY face a do-or-die group stage finale with Scotland after they were left furious by referee Danny Makkelie.

Manager Marco Rossi accused the Dutchman of "double standards" in his officiating against hosts Germany, as goals from Jamal Musiala and Ilkay Gundogan on Wednesday left their Euro 2024 hopes hanging by a thread.

Hungary were unhappy that Musiala's opener in the 22nd minute was allowed to stand, after an apparent shove by Gundogan on defender Willi

Orban proved crucial in the build-up. Goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi felt Makkelie had played a decisive role in the loss that leaves the Hungarians with zero points, and needing a win against Steve Clarke's men to stand any chance of reaching the last 16.

"Why would the defender fall on the ball when he has a chance to clear it, unless it's a foul," said the former Liverpool

goalkeeper (below). "It's very [decisive].

If it stays 0-0 then it's a different situation. We go 1-0 down against an opponent who is a good team, a strong team."

"After that it was difficult to get back into the game. But Germany deserved to win."

Hungary players surrounded Makkelie after the goal – in contradiction to UEFA's new directive that only the team

captain can approach referees. On his team-mates surrounding the official in spite of UEFA's stance, Gulacsi added: "It's not a bad rule if they allow the captain to really talk to the referee."

"We were all frustrated because we felt the decision could be the other way. We tried to convince the referee to have a look, but he was convinced with his decision."

Rossi hit out at Makkelie for allowing the goal to stand before later giving a foul to Germany in a similar situation after a challenge on Robert Andrich.



EURO RE<<IND



PLENTY OF PLUCK

Wild celebrations start for Turkey after Rustu's save, inset, seals shoot-out victory

TURKEY'S GREAT ESCAPE

'Special' side leave it late again



CROATIA 1 TURKEY 1

(AET, Turkey win 3-1 on pens)
Euro 2008 quarter-final:
Ernst Happel Stadion, Vienna,
Friday, June 20

BY NEIL McLEMAN

TURKEY led for a total of six minutes in their five matches at Euro 2008 - and still came within seconds of reaching the final.

Their victory against Croatia in the quarter-finals was among the most extraordinary in the tournament's history.

Turkey had reached the knockout stage by scoring a stoppage-time winner against Switzerland before striker Nihat Kahveci netted in the 87th and 89th minutes against the Czech Republic to turn defeat and elimination into a ridiculous 3-2 win.

But Fatih Terim's side would surpass those victories for drama in the heart-stopping quarter-final.

Slaven Bilic's Croatia, who had knocked England out in qualifying, dominated the match, with Luka Modric outstanding. But they could

not score the opening goal until the final minute of extra-time when Ivan Klasnic headed in a Modric cross, seemingly taking them to the semis.

Turkey coach Terim said: "After Croatia scored, I saw players lying on the pitch and I told Arda Turan to get the ball out of the goal and start again. I wasn't giving up. There is something special about this team."

Semih Senturk then produced something special by lashing an unstoppable left-foot shot into the top corner with the last kick of

extra-time to cap a crazy 60 seconds. But the Turks were not finished.

The next red and white hero was veteran goalkeeper Rustu Recber, a star of the team who finished third at the 2002 World Cup. The 35-year-old had arrived at the tournament as a reserve but returned to the starting team after Volkan Demirel's dismissal against the Czechs.

Modric and Ivan Rakitic both missed the target in the shoot-out, before Rustu saved Mladen Petric's kick to see Turkey win 3-1 on penalties.



Pandemonium followed. Bilic said: "This is the third match Turkey have won in this extreme manner. It is obvious that they have quality and the X-factor, which you need. The game had an incredible ending, the kind you can only find in football."

Turkey faced Germany in the semi-finals with only 14 players available because of injuries

and suspensions. After briefly taking the first-half lead through Ugur Boral and out-playing the Germans for long periods, another shock seemed possible when Semih forced an equaliser just four minutes from time to make it 2-2.

But in another incredible finale, the tables were turned on the Turks as Philipp Lahm scored an 89th-minute winner.

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DAY 4

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**BEST OF
DAY THREE
ACTION**
PAGES 6&7

**COX'S
JAS IS
UP FOR
THE CUP**

Newsboy is
backing
Jasour in
today's
feature race
Page 3

**AT THE
DOUBLE**

Kyprios (right)
battles past
Trawlerman to win
Gold for Aidan
O'Brien (below)



**OLI BELL
COLUMN**

Page 2

**VALUE
SCOPE**

(Steve Jones)
Page 6

O'Brien stayer digs deep to land Gold Cup thriller

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3.45 THE CORONATION STAKES

(GROUP 1) (1) (3YO FILLIES) 1m Winner £368,615 (9 run) **ITV/SKY**

<div><div></div><div>1</div></div> <div>(3) 2614-8 CONTENT (40) (D) (EW) A P O'Brien (IRE) 9-2 W M Lordan 113 FM 7-1 (8-13) 8th of 15, 2l behind Rouhiya (8-13) at ParisLongchamp(FR) 1m 3yo Fll Grp 1 qd in May</div>	<div><div></div><div>6</div></div> <div>(5) 2312-2 PORTA FORTUNA (47) (C) Donnacha O'Brien (IRE) 9-2 T Marquand 118 G 11-1 (9-2) Held up, pushed along over 2f out, stayed on inside final furlong, went 2nd post, 2nd of 16, nk behind Elmalka (9-2) at Newmarket 1m 3yo Fll Grp 1 (1) qd in May</div>
<div><div></div><div>2</div></div> <div>(10) 1-11 DEVOTED QUEEN (35) (D) C Appleby 9-2 DOUBTFUL 3-1fav (9-2) In touch, headway final furlong, ridden to lead inside final furlong, ran on, won at York 1m 3yo 1st fl (1) qd in May beating Spiritual (9-2) by 2l, 9 ran</div>	<div><div></div><div>7</div></div> <div>(1) 112-23 RAMATUELLE (47) (F) C H Head (FR) 9-2 O Murphy 118 G 9-2 (9-2) Led 2f out, went clear, reduced lead 1f out, headed final strides, lost 2nd post, 3rd of 16, 1/2l behind Elmalka (9-2) at Newmarket 1m 3yo Fll Grp 1 (1) qd in May</div>
<div><div></div><div>3</div></div> <div>(7) 1-31 ELMALKA (47) (D) R Varian 9-2 James Doyle 120 G 28-1 (9-2) Held up, headway over 1f out, stayed on, led final strides, won at Newmarket 1m 3yo Fll Grp 1 (1) qd in May beating Porta Fortuna (9-2) by nk, 16 ran</div>	<div><div></div><div>8</div></div> <div>(2) 31-31 ROUHIYA (40) (D) F Graffard (FR) 9-2 M Guyon 115 G 33-1 (8-13) Won at ParisLongchamp(FR) 1m 3yo Fll Grp 1 qd in May beating Kathmandu (8-13) by hd, 15 ran</div>
<div><div></div><div>4</div></div> <div>(4) 11-10 FOLGARIA (40) (D) M Botti 9-2 H Doyle 111 G 13-2 (8-13) 11th of 15, 5l behind Rouhiya (8-13) at ParisLongchamp(FR) 1m 3yo Fll Grp 1 qd in May</div>	<div><div></div><div>9</div></div> <div>(6) 123-0 SEE THE FIRE (47) A Balding 9-2 D Probert 112 G 15-2 (9-2) Never closer than mid-division, 12th of 16, 14l behind Elmalka (9-2) at Newmarket 1m 3yo Fll Grp 1 (1) qd in May</div>
<div><div></div><div>5</div></div> <div>(9) 1211-3 OPERA SINGER (26) (D) (SF) A P O'Brien (IRE) 9-2 R L Moore 119 G 7-2 (9-2) Led, 3rd halfway, no impression on leader 11/2 out, no extra, 3rd of 13, 5l behind Fallen Angel (9-2) at Curragh 1m 3yo Fll Grp 1 (1) in May</div>	<div><div></div><div>10</div></div> <div>(8) 412-8 SKELLET (26) R Beckett 9-2 Rossa Ryan 108 FM 12-1 (9-2) Held up, ridden over 2f out, no impression in 9th over 1f out, kept on one pace, 8th of 13, 7l behind Fallen Angel (9-2) at Curragh 1m 3yo Fll Grp 1 (1) in May</div>

BETTING: 6-4 Opera Singer, 7-2 Elmalka, 4 Ramatuelle, 7 Porta Fortuna, 10 Rouhiya, 25 Content, Skellet, See The Fire, 66 Folgaria.
2023: TAHIYRA(Ire) 9 2 Chris Hayes 8-13 Fav (D K Wield) drawn (3) 6 ran

NO PASSING RAM RAIDER



KEY PLAYER Opera Singer

NEWSBOY'S 1-2-3 1 RAMATUELLE 2 ELMALKA 3 OPERA SINGER

RAMATUELLE enhanced her reputation despite her 1,000 Guineas defeat, and is the choice to gain compensation.
Read the result of last month's Newmarket Classic and it tells you that **Elmalka** beat **Porta Fortuna** by a neck, with Ramatuelle a short head back in third and **See The Fire** in 12th.
But that doesn't tell the

whole story. The fillies' test was run at a searing gallop, a race rhythm that suited the horses who flew at a safe distance from the sun during its early stages.
They included Elmalka, who sat last of the 16 competitors, and Porta Fortuna, who settled in midpack.
Ramatuelle, by contrast, was given a cavalier ride by Aurélien Lemaître, who dashed his partner to the front running to the final quarter-mile.
It's understandable that the Christopher Head trainee, who needed to

prove her stamina for a mile, proved vulnerable to late assailants – and it's of little surprise that connections have turned to Oisín Murphy to take over at the controls today.
What isn't up for debate is that Ramatuelle, a Group 3 and Group 2 winner as a juvenile, is up to this class.
Even if she had the Guineas run to suit, Elmalka is a horse who is going places quickly. She looks bound for a place, along with **Opera Singer**, a comeback third in the Irish 1,000 Guineas.

SWITCH
Ramatuelle will benefit from Oisín Murphy's booking



EL RAISER
Silvestre de Sousa celebrates Elmalka's 1,000 Guineas victory

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VALUE SCOPE

STEVE JONES with his Ascot eyecatchers

SAFECRACKER (4.25) has the key to the Duke Of Edinburgh Stakes.

Johnny Murtagh's (below) Irish raider is consistent over this 1m4f distance on decent ground and he should take a step forward from last month's comeback run.

He found that 1m2f trip too sharp when a staying-on fifth behind today's rivals Crystal Black and Deakin at the Curragh.

The return to his best distance will help him reverse that form. Have 2pts each-way at **12-1**. A couple of bookies are paying out on six places.

FOREVER BLUE (5.05) has done well to win two of her three starts considering she has been screaming for the step up to a mile.

Her only defeat came in the Group 3 Prestige

Fillies' Stakes at Goodwood last August when the step up in grade came a little too soon in her career.

She found the 7f trip way too sharp for her on her first race of the season at Haydock last month but she kept grinding away.

Her stamina kicked in close to the finish and she was well on top at the winning line. This big-field handicap should set up perfectly for Ralph Beckett's filly. Have

2pts each-way at **14-1**.

Sky Bet is offering a generous eight places with Paddy Power going seven.

Beckett also has claims with **MACDUFF** (5.40) in the King Edward VII Stakes. He was disappointing in the Derby but the combination of easy ground and Epsom's tricky track seemed to count against him.

Last season's juvenile form was promising and

he was always going to be better as a three-year-old.

He made a decent return to action when runner-up behind Arabian Crown in Sandown's Classic Trial – his trainer's horses were generally needing a run at the time.

This nephew of classy Kingman will love the fast ground and should bounce back to form. Have 1pt each-way at **25-1**.

VANTHEMAN (6.15) is very fast and his speed will be a potent weapon in the Palace Of Holyrood House Stakes.

He did well to split two of today's rivals – Jubilee Walk and Pilgrim – at York last month when his high draw meant he had to race further towards the stands' side than ideal.

This race should pan out better for Kevin Ryan's speedster. Have 1pt each-way at **14-1**. Most bookies are going six places with Sky Bet stretching to seven.



DAVID YATES ON YEST

KYP ON

Cup hero comes back from near death to regain his crown



ROYAL SEAL
King Charles is delighted for Aidan O'Brien and (below) Ryan Moore with the trophy



KYPRIOS, the 11-10 favourite, defied odds of "millions to one" to pull off Mission Impossible in the Gold Cup.

Two years ago, the Aidan O'Brien-trained son of Galileo captured Royal Ascot's signature race to herald a ruthless domination of the stayers' division.

But the following spring Ballydoyle announced Kyprios would miss his Gold Cup defence as an infection to a fetlock joint threatened not just to end the horse's racing career — but his life.

The chestnut returned to the track with two seconds in the second half of the campaign, but a gladiatorial

defeat of old rival Trawlerman on a blazing Royal heath confirmed the six-year-old back to the peak of his powers.

"At one point, it didn't look like he was going to live," recounted O'Brien, registering a record ninth Gold Cup success.

"He got an infection in his joint, and it got into the joint capsule. Usually what happens is they lose the movement in the joint — and, for a while, he did.

"But it came back. Then it was getting him to stand, and then to walk, then to trot, then teaching him how to canter again, because he had

to move all his body in different ways again.

"No horse has ever been X-rayed, scanned more in their life than him."

O'Brien reflected: "It was millions to one. It was really impossible for him to come back from what he came back from.

"Then, when he came back into training, it was every day, every day — was it moving? Was it changing? Was it getting better?"

"It was unbelievable but he always had the most incredible mind. That was always his power, probably, his mind."

Kyprios had begun his 2024



YESTERDAY'S ACTION

"At one point, it didn't look like he was going to live. No horse has ever been scanned or X-rayed as much as him"

BELIEVING

GUTS OF A CHAMPION

Trawlerman (left) could not reel in Kyprios who won O'Brien's 10th Ascot Gold Cup



TOPPER Moore tops the Royal Ascot jockeys' table on 83 wins

Frankie's the best – Moore

RYAN MOORE broke Frankie Dettori's record of Royal Ascot victories aboard Ribblesdale Stakes heroine Port Fairy – and then declared: "Frankie's always been the best."

Moore began Wednesday level with his legendary friend and rival, now based in America after leaving Britain to continue his career in California, on the 81-winner mark at the glittering fixture.

But the 40-year-old became Royal Ascot's most prolific jockey as the Aidan O'Brien-saddled 12-1 shot defied Lava Stream to lift the Group 2 fillies' test by a neck.

"I remember Frankie when I was a kid, riding for my grandad at Brighton," said Moore. "He's always been the best in my eyes."

"And the only reason I've had that amount of winners is I've ridden for the two most successful trainers in the history of Ascot – Aidan and Sir Michael Stoute."

"It's all about the horses – I'm just lucky to be riding them," added the jockey, later triumphant aboard Kyprios in the Gold Cup.

"I wouldn't have even given it a thought. Every day, it's on to the next one."

Dettori (above) was on hand to cheer **Going The Distance**, carrying the colours of his friend Marc Chan, home in the King George V Handicap.

Wathnan Racing, having assembled a crack £25m Royal Ascot squad, enjoyed its second and third successes this week with the James Doyle-partnered pair **Shareholder** (Gr 2 Norfolk Stakes) and **English Oak** (Buckingham Palace H'cap).



campaign with victories at Navan and Leopardstown before his bid to become the third horse in the Gold Cup's 217-year history – after Anticipation (1816 & 1819) and Kayf Tara (1998 & 2000) – to get his title back.

Ryan Moore sent his mount to tackle the pacemaking Trawlerman with two furlongs of the two-and-a-half-mile challenge to run.

The leader fought back tenaciously but had to concede defeat as Kyprios forged to a one-length supremacy with a further five back to the runner-up's John and Thady Gosden stablemate, Sweet William.

Moore had no doubt his partner

would consent to go through the pain barrier. "Once I asked my horse today, there was no doubt," said the jockey. "Once I asked him, it was over."

"I said to Aidan, 'He's the fastest horse in the race, and he stays the best. I've just got to get it right.'"

It was a day of near-misses for Trawlerman's rider William Buick (left).

In the Britannia Handicap, he took another silver medal as Skukuza chased home **Mickley**, delivering a first Royal Ascot win to trainer Ed Bethell and jockey Callum Rodriguez.

And 35 minutes later King's Gambit flew home under Buick but could only finish second to **Jayarebe** in the Hampton Court Stakes.



FANS' FAVOURITE Kyprios justified odds of 11-10 to add to his Gold Cup win in 2022

